

NEWS IN BRIEF

Harbour oil wells go-ahead

FOUR test oil wells are to be sunk in Poole Harbour, Dorset, without the Department of Environment calling in BP's application for consideration. Back page.

Teachers review

THE National Union of Teachers is likely to lose its majority in a review of the Burnham committee teachers' panel. Page 2; Letters, page 14.

Bombs fear

SPAIN fears a bombing campaign by Basque terrorists on the Costa Blanca after the explosions on Wednesday night. Back page.

Finance turmoil

THERE was turmoil on Wall Street yesterday as fears spread about the stability of the American financial system. Page 17.

School lifeline

A COMPREHENSIVE school threatened with closure is planning to raise £2 million by selling off land. Page 4.

Inquiry snub

PRISON officers have refused to take part in an investigation into ill-treatment at a detention centre. Page 2.

GCHQ warning

A SECOND official who rejoined the GCHQ union faces disciplinary measures from the Cheltenham management. Page 3.

£60 m loss blame

DOCTORS blamed health authorities administered for an estimated loss to the NHS of £60 million in private fees. Page 2.

Football deadline

THE television companies have given the Football League a three-week deadline to agree a deal on televised matches. Page 28.



"If I want to keep my right to vote I'll have to join a peace camp."

The weather

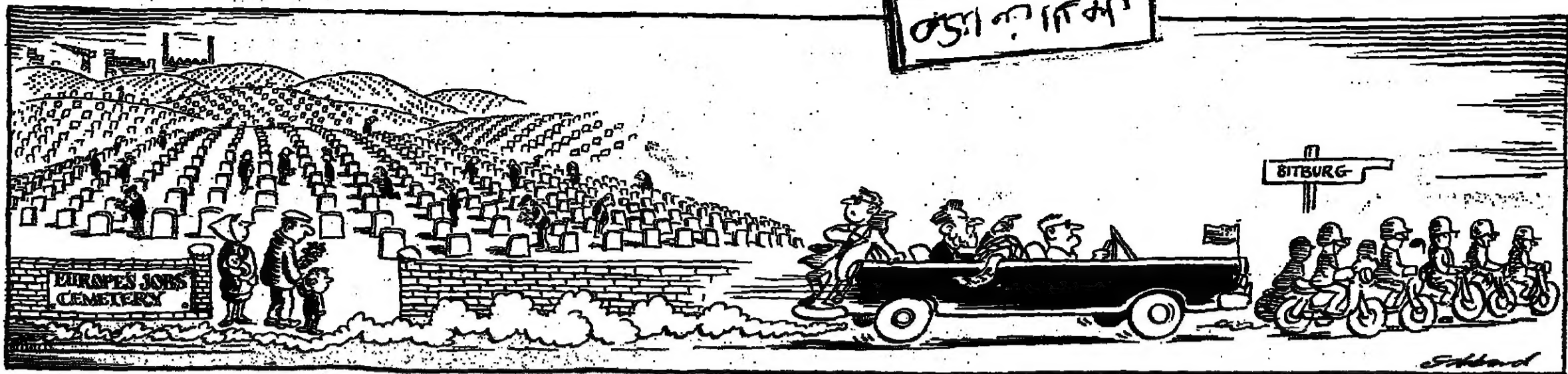
SUN and showers. Details back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE	100 p
Austria	25 p
Belgium	25 p
Denmark	25 p
France	25 p
Germany	25 p
Italy	25 p
Netherlands	25 p
Spain	25 p
Sweden	25 p
Switzerland	25 p
USA	25 p

The days to victory



IN THE build-up to the VE-Day celebrations, the Guardian will be recreating the atmosphere of the approaching peace by publishing war pages from the papers of May 1945. We begin tomorrow with the Guardian of May 5, 1945, which reported the surrender to Field-Marshal Montgomery of the German forces in Holland, Denmark, and North-West Germany.



Poll tax on residents follows relief for commerce

Cabinet plan to 'nationalise' business rates

By Ian Aitken,
Political Editor

THE Government is expected to "nationalise" levying of commercial rates throughout the United Kingdom as a means of lifting some of the burden of the present local rating system from business enterprises.

The proposal is the first phase of a plan to reform radically the rating system, including a possible switch of the present domestic rate to a poll tax.

This emerged in Whitehall last night after the Cabinet had spent four hours discussing a separate plan for radical changes in the welfare state, including proposals to end housing benefit and force the unemployed and the poor to pay a share of their housing and rate costs.

However, the Cabinet did not vote on the proposals for the abolition of the state earnings related pensions scheme or to subsidise on the row between Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor.

The Prime Minister cut short the discussion in order to go to the Bonn summit, and it now seems unlikely that the Cabinet will return to Mr Fowler's welfare state review until next Thursday.

The argument over earnings related pensions will be central to the debate, however. Mr Fowler has argued that the Government should not be likely to return to Mr Fowler's welfare state review until next Thursday.

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Norman Fowler —
Madison Avenue style

Equally pressing for Mrs Thatcher is the issue of rate reform. She has pledged the Government to update the system of local government rates, after failing to deliver her own original plan to abolish the rates altogether.

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as an affront to the principle of accountability.

It is therefore proposed that the Government shall set a nationwide level for commercial rates, the proceeds from which will be paid into a central fund controlled by Whitehall.

This will then be redistributed to local authorities by central government on the same basis as councils receive Treasury grants towards their expenditure.

This formula is calculated on the basis of local need, a formula described as grant related expenditure.

The amount received by individual councils would not be linked to the amount of their proposed expenditure, but will be calculated on the basis of an abstract assessment of the expenditure necessary to cover basic necessities.

If this is the first phase in the Government's latest bid to control local authority spending, it is a far cry from the original plan to abolish the rates altogether.

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Reagan wins backing on trade

From Christopher Huhne
and Derek Browne
in Bonn

PRESIDENT Reagan succeeded last night in recruiting the bulk of America's most powerful allies in his campaign to launch a new round of world talks on trade liberalisation next year.

The main obstacle to agreement in the summit of the leaders of the world's seven most important industrial countries appeared to be President Mitterrand. He was holding out last night for a parallel progress on world monetary reform.

Talks between Mr Reagan and Mr Mitterrand were described on the French side as cool but firm.

Nevertheless, senior French officials last night seemed to be prepared for a diplomatically phrased retreat, rather than risk being isolated in the summit. A spokesman stressed that

Agenda, page 11

France was in favour of new trade negotiations, but the summit was not a meeting of experts which could commit itself to specific procedures or dates. Its purpose was rather to sketch "broad outlines of a new agenda".

There would be no real solutions in the commercial field without solutions to monetary problems. The French want to declare limits on currency movements, proposals which the seven leaders flew in to a heavily policed Bonn consisted of a flurry of ceremonies and bilateral meetings.

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April jobless figure worst for two years

By David Simpson,
Business Correspondent

The Government disclosed yesterday that more people joined the jobless roll in April than in any other single month for two years. This announcement came just two days after an optimistic Confederation of British Industry survey claimed that employment prospects were improving.

The unemployment level rose to a new peak of 13.1 per cent last month, with an extra 29,200 people out of work, pushing the seasonally adjusted jobless total up to 3,177,300.

Department of Employment officials put some of the blame for the April rise on the reluctance of employers to hire more workers ahead of the Easter holiday, but that this reason could not cover the entire increase. The underlying trend remains unchanged with an average 14,000 still joining the unemployment list each month, a spokesman said.

The large jump in the jobless total in the month which completed the Tories' sixth year in office provoked a stream of criticisms of the Government's economic record from Opposition parties, and seems bound to fuel the growing

unease on the Conservative back benches over Mrs Thatcher's employment strategies.

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, last night said that the attack on unemployment could be more vigorously pursued and that manufacturing industry had a part to play in economic growth.

Labour's employment spokesman, Mr John Prescott, yesterday commented that the Prime Minister remained resolute in her determination to throw people out of work. "Despite having achieved the highest

level of unemployment this century over her six years in office, she has done so to the Bonn summit to convince other leaders of the need for more deflation and more unemployment," he said.

The Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, condemned the Government's failure to tackle unemployment. He added: "The country is fed up hearing from the Conservatives that recovery is about to arrive. The figures yet again show that it is not."

Defending the figures, the

Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, claimed that the April leap in the unemployment level appeared to be an erratic movement and should not be read as indicating any change in the underlying pattern.

"These figures are in contrast with the encouraging increase in the number of new jobs, the report only this week by the CBI of improved prospects for employment, and indeed with the recent trend of unemployment figures," he added.

The real unemployment level in April rose by almost 5,000 to 3,273,000, with a fall of 4,816 in the number of unemployed school leavers out-weighed by a 9,239 increase in the number of adult unemployed. On a seasonal basis, the number of adult unemployed had been expected to fall by 20,000. There was a substantial fall in April in the number of previously registered unemployed who found jobs.

Excluding school leavers, only 328,000 people found jobs during the month, compared with 374,000 in March, and 354,000 in April last year — indicating that there is still little if any evidence of new job creation on a material scale.

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Cuban advisers leave Nicaragua

From Derek Browne in Managua

The first contingent of Cuban military advisers left Nicaragua yesterday amidst reports that the Contra rebels, with further secret funding, are moving back into the country for a further onslaught on the Sandinista Government.

President Reagan said yesterday that the US trade boycott would go ahead whatever the outcome of the summit of the Americas.

The President, replying to Nicaraguan threats to take the US to the World Court, brusquely dismissed any chance of a successful recourse.

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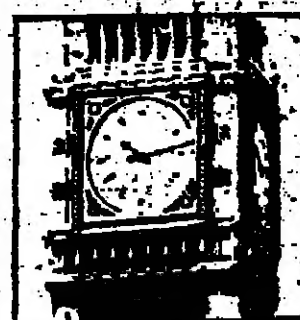
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David McKie

Tapping veins of popular wisdom

SOME SWEAR by the simple good sense of the man on the Clapham omnibus. Mr. John Biffen, leader of the Commons and MP for North Shropshire, prefers another, more local test: the wisdom of the taproom bar at Llanymedwyl.

He paid his first public tribute to the assembled drinkers in his new famous letter to his constituents, feeling the first faint glimmerings of a turnaround in unemployment. The SDP leader, David Owen, was one of several MPs anxious to discover yesterday if Mr. Biffen's optimism had survived yesterday's record unemployment figures—and whether his constituent-wondering wisdom was making of them.

Since the pub, which is called the Horseshoe, doesn't appear to be on the phone, that couldn't be checked last night. Yet one way and another this was a Commons day which would have given taprooms everywhere no shortage of themes to mull over.

The technicalities which have dominated the week—pension funding, bank liquidity, the single transferable allowance (or as the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. John Moore, twice inadvertently called it, the Finance Bill debate, the single transferable

The day in politics, page 3

vote)—gave way yesterday to such ancient universal preoccupations as travel, football, the British Sunday, and pubs.

Mrs. Thatcher's travels, for instance. Conal, Gregory (C. York and Wales), a question, having her to the North, to inspect the state of the county, of perfection, which is the Conservative-controlled county council. Mrs. T. couldn't answer, as she was in Bonn—observing, as Labour's John Fraser put it, "Friday's Reagan's diplomatic skills at first hand."

But Mr. Biffen, who deputised, promised to dangle the prospect before her when she returned. Then the Shadow Secretary of State, Lord Canning, invited her to broaden her horizons, by visiting Wembley, so ending her "boy-cott" of the Cup-Final—an opportunity, he provocatively added, to see Manchester United winning the cup.

Elsewhere on the football front, there was further grim-faced discussion about people who are guilty, as the Conservative Mr. Geoffrey Dickens put it, of "misdeeds" at football grounds. The Home Secretary endorsed Mr. Dickens's views about the value of video surveillance, though he twice failed to commit any specific action for the new season's football.

Hardly was Mr. Biffen's clear of football before Mrs. Thatcher's lively junior minister, Mr. David Howell, was doing battle with an odd assortment of questions from Tory right-wingers about Stanbrook to the Pled Pledge of schoolroom discipline. Mr. Howell's reply to the British Sunday from the "Auto-Report" was that Stanbrook because of what it might do to the church and Mr. Howell's answer to what it might do to the church was that it might do to the church.

Over a hundred Tory MPs have signed a motion approving the report, and the subcommittee are getting ready to start a campaign to get the Commons to pass the present Shops Act has new friends. But on the subject of the Government's impending decision his lips remained as firmly sealed as Sainsbury's doors have been since Mrs. Thatcher said that law-breaking must stop.

All that would have to be done is to have a law reform bill for Scotland, during which Labour's John Grieve moved an amendment enabling the Scottish Secretary to ban the opening of pubs within a mile of specified sporting events.

In the debate which followed on a law reform bill for Scotland, during which Labour's John Grieve moved an amendment enabling the Scottish Secretary to ban the opening of pubs within a mile of specified sporting events, Mr. Biffen, one assumes, they would mostly support either Shropshire or Wrexham, where crowd riots are as rare nowadays as crowds. One wonders though, about that taproom. There are pre-arranged, Mr. Biffen should to its arbitration against wisdom wasn't relocated sometime ago in the altogether less evocative surroundings of the saloon.

Brittan pushes drug law to seize assets

By Alan Travis

Legislation allowing police to confiscate the assets of drug traffickers will be produced in the lifetime of this Parliament, the Home Secretary Mr. Leon Brittan said yesterday.

He also failed to rule out a demand that the law be changed to allow police to act before suspects were convicted. In the past, Home Office ministers have warned of the dangers of making inroads into the cherished legal principle that the burden of proof must lie with the prosecution.

The Conservative MP for Derby North, Mr. Greg Knight received an acknowledgment from Mr. Brittan when he called for urgent measures.

"There is a case for doing something radical as to giving the police immediate powers of seizure before conviction and shifting the burden of proof so that drug dealers will have to prove they obtained their assets by legitimate means to avoid forfeiture," he said.

The Home Secretary pledged that the law would be changed in the lifetime of this Parliament and said there was the case for acting on Mr. Knight's demand. "Existing powers are inadequate," he agreed, but I would not want the court to feel that they should not be used as far as they go."

The Association of Chief Police Officers demanded powers to confiscate before conviction at their conference on Wednesday. Under their plan, the accused dealer's family would be allowed funds to live on until the jury's verdict. If the prosecution failed, all funds and property would be returned.

A white paper on public order reviewing police powers on demonstrations is to be published before the end of this month, Brittan told the Commons yesterday.

The review will not cover the issues raised by the policing of the miners' strike as was first expected. Members of the Association of Chief Police Officers are still working on a report on the operational lessons of the year-long dispute and the Home Office has decided against delaying the white paper for its completion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Virus toll reaches 24

THE unidentified virus yesterday claimed its 24th Staffordshire victim in two weeks when a woman aged 62 died from pneumonia at Stafford district hospital, writes Andrew Veitch.

Two Stafford men—one aged 35, the other 72—and a woman aged 72 from Hednesford, Cannock were admitted to the hospital yesterday. Scientists trying to identify the virus—thought to be influenza B—are due to report to Stafford's infection control committee today.

Menuhin British

THE violinist Yehudi Menuhin has become a British citizen, it was disclosed yesterday. He became naturalised in February, but it was decided that no announcement should be made until he had attended a reception in his honour on Wednesday, hosted by Lord Gower, the arts minister.

Bomb defused

ARMY experts last night defused a 500lb bomb packed into creamery cans and left in the centre of Newton-Butler, County Fermanagh, near the border with the Irish Republic. About 200 locals were moved overnight from their homes.

Service sentences

TWO leading Welsh language campaigners were yesterday ordered to undertake community service after being found guilty at Abergele magistrates court of causing criminal damage to government offices in North Wales. They were Ms. Angharad Thomas, aged 28, a former chairwoman of the Welsh Language Society, and Ms. Gwenith Huws, 21, a student.

Band cancels visit

A visit to the Irish Republic later this year by the New York Irish Emerald Police Society Band had been called off after complaints that it would be used for political purposes by the IRA.

Master move

MAGNUS Magnusson, the chairman of the television knowledge test, Mastermind, is to join the BBC Birmingham Pebble Mill at One live programme as a presenter when the series resumes in September. He will continue as chairman of Mastermind.

Moving up

THE next commissioner of the City of London police is to be Mr. Owen Kelly, 53, the assistant to the present commissioner, Peter Marshall who retires on June 30.

Weaker unions see Joseph's plan as way to get more conciliatory voice in negotiations

Burnham review will end NUT dominance

By John Fairhall

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, is to change the composition of the teachers' panel of the Burnham pay negotiating committee, effectively ending its domination by the National Union of Teachers.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the National Association of Head Teachers, and the Professional Association of Teachers have been campaigning for years to break the NUT's majority. They resent the ability of the NUT to outvote all the others and then speak nominally for all teachers.

The NAS/UWT said yesterday that if the NUT did not

have its Burnham majority, the talks on restructuring teachers' pay would have been kept alive and conciliation more possible. The talks broke down when the NUT refused to continue.

The PAT general secretary, Mr. Peter Dawson, insisted that a way would have been found out of the present strike-bound pay impasse, "many, many weeks ago if it had not been for the determination of the NUT to have the war. The present dispute is not about pay, but about NUT power. They have to demonstrate their ability to disrupt."

The NUT called the move unnecessary and vindictive. Seats on the Burnham teachers' panel are based largely on the strength of the unions at

the last review in December 1979, which gave the NUT 16 representatives, the NAS/UWT 7, the NAHT 2, the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association 4, PAT and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education one each.

Sir Keith's review will use the figures for December 31, 1984 of fully paid up members in local authority schools in England and Wales, leaving out members in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and also excluding unemployed, student, retired, associate members, and those working in independent schools.

The NUT's membership has fallen since 1979. PAT's has increased and other unions' figures have changed. But the

NUT's claimed figure of 235,000 members, the NAS/UWT's 127,000 and PAT's 32,000 are not precise.

Mr. Dawson said: "It is an absolute certainty that the NUT majority will go." Mr. Nigel de Gruchy of the NAS/UWT said that when membership was tallied, the NUT would be outnumbered by the other unions, and with the Burnham representation adjusted proportionately, the NUT majority would go.

The NUT's deputy general secretary, Mr. Doug McAvoy, said the union had nothing to hide. "We will now seek to prove that the representation afforded the union remains justified."

The Government's clear objective was to divert attention

from the main issue of teachers' pay, he said. "The decision is clearly in favour of the teachers' union."

During recent months, the NUT had used its majority to advance their valid salaries demands, he said.

Mr. Geoff Bayson, general secretary of the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association, said that nearly 100,000 members said that it had decided to raise the question of panel membership as soon as the current pay claim was settled.

The unions have until June 30 to submit their figures and Sir Keith intends to complete the review before the end of the year.

Prison officers refuse to help assault inquiry

By Aileen Ballantyne

The Prison Officers' Association has refused to take part in an internal investigation into allegations that youths have been slapped in the face and punched in the stomach by prison officers at Aldington short sharp shock detention centre.

Last Friday the Guardian reported that probation officers in touch with the boys had expressed deep concern over frequent independent statements from inmates alleging ill-treatment by staff.

Mr. David Evans, general secretary of the POA, said yesterday

information which needed examination it was his duty to give it to the police. "If no such information exists then it is equally their duty to remain silent and allow the police to get on with their work," he added.

Ms. Jill Cove, who chairs the National Association of Probation Officers, said they had raised the matter because of the number of complaints received from independent sources.

Probation officers themselves could not give police direct witness evidence of any allegations of violence because they could not be on the spot when the incidents were alleged to have taken place.

Inmates who made allegations of violence while they were in the institution often asked the probation officer not to take them up because they feared retributions.

They were more likely to come forward with details once they had left the institution. Ms. Cove added that if an internal inquiry was held the association would encourage its members to make representations. "We would see it as very much up to the POA to encourage their members to take part also," she said.

The Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, wrote in Community Care magazine yesterday that the Government's policy on detention centres was fully justified on its merits.

There were two key elements in the regime. The first was a "particularly brisk and structured initial two-week programme, including increased emphasis on parades and inspections, minimal privileges and association and basic work."

Secondly, the grade system had been sharpened so that eligibility for increased association, privileges, and the less basic kinds of work were dependent on effort and good conduct.

Some commentators have caricatured the new regime as harsh and brutal. That is not so, we have taken steps to ensure that it strikes a proper balance.

Ex-royal policeman is gaoled

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors are blaming the administrators of England's 192 district health authorities for the estimated 500 million in private practice fees lost to the NHS over the past year.

Mr. John Chawner, chairman of the British Medical Association's practices committee, said: "When I was asked to estimate the number of consultants who have been prosecuted for fraud since the NHS was set up, there is hardly a case that has stood up."

He said that the BMA planned to meet Department of Health officials to draw up a new system to collect money. He was commenting on claims by Mr. Michael Mescher, Labour's social services spokesman, that a significant minority of consultants committed fraud.

Mr. Mescher made the allegations after Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, refused to fully certify health authority accounts after "serious and persistent failures" to collect money from private patients who used NHS facilities.

Mr. Chawner said allegations that consultants had swindled the NHS out of millions of pounds were based on tittle-tattle and had no basis in fact. He said that a special audit of 37 authorities had shown many examples of health authorities failing to have an adequate system to pick up bills.

In Wakefield, Yorkshire, auditors found that in two small hospitals, one collected fees while the other did not.

Mr. Paddy Ross, deputy chairman of the BMA's consultants committee, said yesterday that part of the problem was the series of complex regulations and codes of practice covering private fees. He hoped that the Department of Health would agree to simplify and codify the system so that doctors and administrators would understand it.

Doctors blame inefficiency for lost fees

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

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There were opposition protests on the committee at the disclosure of the new funds. Mr. Adrian Slade, the Liberal leader, accused the council of carrying out "creative fiddling," not creative accounting, and said that the new figures meant that the budget six weeks ago had been made on entirely false premises.

Mr. Alan Greenstock, the Tory leader, said that the Labour group had "ripped off Londoners" and was intent on pouring ever growing sums down the drain.

Police 'eradicate video piracy'

Police who broke up a gang trading in pirate videos claimed in court yesterday that their operation had put an end to video piracy in Britain.

Detective Chief Inspector Michael Collins, who organised the police operation, made the claim in evidence at the Knightsbridge crown court in central London yesterday, where two men were gaoled for nine months at the end of an eight-week trial.

Detective Chief Inspector Collins said: "Since the arrest of the men, it is a fact that no film has been removed from a UK cinema and pirated. Films are coming in from America, but not from Britain."

The two men gaoled were Manohar Jagwani, the former manager of the Ace Cinema, Stoke Newington, north London, and Terence Jayes, the organisation's courier.

Mr. John Lloyd-Ely, prosecuting, had told the court: "The piracy was organised on a massive scale with copied cassettes being distributed in this country and abroad. The profits were enormous."

They used a £50,000 Rank Cintel copying machine which takes two or three hours to make a master tape from which thousands of high quality cassettes can be made," he said.

Jagwani, aged 30, of Forest Gate, east London, was gaoled for nine months for piracy. Jayes, aged 25, of Forest Gate, was gaoled for nine months for piracy.

Joint Civil Service union criticised as gift to left

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Mrs. Kate Losinska, rightwing president of the Civil and Public Services Association yesterday strongly criticised a plan to merge with other unions and accused the general secretary Mr. Alister Graham of seeking a bigger power base.

She said a deal to join forces with the Society of Civil and Public Servants in an organisation representing 270,000 members would favour the left.

But Mr. Graham, centre-right in union terms and with his own share of problems in the past with his union's left-wing leadership challenged Mrs. Losinska's claims. "A merger would further the cause of moderate trade unionism," he said.

It would do so, he said, partly because under the draft agreement to be debated at his union's conference in 10 days before going to a ballot—the society would have to adopt the CPSA's system of elections by ballots at individual workplaces. He pointed out that the CPSA's system of elections was in favour of a merger.

The row began late on Wednesday night when Mrs. Losinska discovered Mr. Graham and other full-time officials, including many moderate members, in the basement of CPSA's headquarters in south London planning a fringe election to a ballot of the meeting in support of the

Romantic writer who defended her profession

OBITUARY

DENISE ROBINS, the novelist who numbered the Hemingway of For Whom the Bell Tolls on her list of her fellow romantics, died yesterday in her sleep. She was 87 and had 200 published works to her credit.

Miss Robins, who was co-founder of the Romantic Novelists Association, and for six years its president, was a sturdy defender of her chosen profession.

"Many critics," she once said, "don't even bother to read romantic novels." Romance was more beneficial "than crime or sadism and the rather ugly themes that emerge from the psychiatrist's couch."

Miss Robins, twice married, was the mother of three daughters, Secret Hour, Moment of Love, A.M.H.

Do not go my love, Fever of Love. At her peak she wrote 10,000 words a day, working latterly from an attic room in her Baywards Heath home. She collaborated with Roland Pertwee on one successful play, Heat Wave, and was a regular broadcaster.

Her own marriages were the stuff of fiction. Her first husband, to whom she was married for 18 years, she described as good and kind, but their sex life was a disaster. Her second husband, who survives her, Neil Pearson, she met when she was 41. "Across a crowded drawing room over- looking the Nile there he was. It was love at first sight," A.M.H.



STAGE FACES: the mask of the three-faced woman (top), from a play by Ionesco, and the mask of the Captain (above), a copy of an 18th century mask, are among the exhibits on show at the Burston Gallery, Brighton College, as part of the Brighton festival on the theme of Commedia dell'Arte.

Pictures by Martin Argles

GLC finds extra cash in coffers

By David Rose

THE Greater London Council yesterday discovered an extra £60 million, and announced a spending programme to use the money.

Six weeks ago, when the ruling Labour council split over whether to make a legal rate, councillors were being told that complying with the government's ratecapping limits would lead to cuts.

Later, it emerged that the rate cap was not some way below the legal maximum—would not result in cuts.

Yesterday, the new policy and resources committee, itself a product of the row over the setting of a rate and chaired by the council's leader, Mr. Ken Livingstone, was given a document from the finance department setting out the details of the new funds.

The additional £60 million has arrived from writing off a greater proportion of the GLC's debts and the establishment of a special fund to obtain a new block grant from the Government.

According to Labour sources, still more creative accounting will shortly produce yet further funds, amounting to at least £200 million.

There may be even more in the pipeline, with some estimates of the eventual total available from the many and various balances as high as £150 million—a fifth of the total GLC budget—above the figures given to the council in March.

Yesterday's meeting decided to allocate half the new money to contingency funds and to restore savings from the council's spending programmes requested at the time of the original budget; £25 million was allocated to the "commencement of developments."

This will be split among the GLC's different functions. There were opposition protests on the committee at the disclosure of the new funds. Mr. Adrian Slade, the Liberal leader, accused the council of carrying out "creative fiddling," not creative accounting, and said that the new figures meant that the budget six weeks ago had been made on entirely false premises.

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Million dollars to explore Victorian library

By Donald Wintersgill, Arts Sales Correspondent

THE LIBRARY of Sir Richard Burton, the Victorian explorer, author, linguist, scholar and translator of the Arabian Nights, is up for sale at \$1 million.

In spite of all his exploits, Burton is still somewhat of a mystery figure.

The library of about 2,500 books and pamphlets reflects his astonishing range of interests. Many of the margins and fly-leaves bear his notes and comments.

These are especially valuable because his widow Isabel destroyed his private diaries and other manuscripts after his death. She thought that some of his literary work was pornographic and forbade anything to be published without the consent of the National Vigilance Society.

Of his Arabian Nights, a biographer wrote: "It would be absurd to ignore the fact that the attraction lies not so much in the translation as in the notes and the terminal essay, where certain subjects of curiosity are discussed with naked freedom."

Burton's library, following the example of high repute, and indulging a taste which is more widespread than modern prudery will allow."

Burton served in the Indian Army and the British consular service. He travelled in the Middle East, India, North and South America, Iceland, and West Africa. His most famous exploits were to reach Mecca in disguise and to seek the sources of the Nile.

He was also a master swordsman, interested in falconry, a fine translator and brilliant at disguise.

Lady Burton's sister wanted the books destroyed but they were saved and eventually given to Kensington borough council, which stored them in a cellar.

During the second world war the cellar was flooded and the books damaged. They were again rescued, this time by the librarians of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

The Institute has laid down conditions for the sale which is by private bargain not auction, and will be handled by Sotheby's. The buyer must keep the library together and allow scholars access.

Mr Jonathan Benthall, director of the Institute, said yesterday: "We could make a higher price if we let the library be sold piecemeal at auction. We do not want that."

"The Institute is not in financial difficulty, but our premises are on a short lease and we could be out at short notice. Some of the money from the sale will be used to buy premises and the rest will be used for other projects."

"This is not an anthropological library but the working library of someone who was an important anthropologist. It is really about nineteenth-century culture and nineteenth-century exploration."

The British Library has said it is not in the market for the books.



Children try out gas masks at an event in London to learn what life was like in wartime Britain. The VE Day anniversary celebration yesterday was organised by the Inner London Education Authority for more than 150 youngsters from the capital's schools. Picture by Graham Turner

£100,007 libel awards for slimming doctor

Dr Sidney Gee yesterday became the first person to receive more than £100,000 libel damages in an English court.

The Harley Street slimming expert, who was paid £75,000 last week by the BBC, celebrated his 64th birthday by accepting a further £25,007 from two doctors in final settlement of his action over an item about one of his patients in Esther Rantzen's *That's Life* programme.

The total award of £100,007 exceeded by just £7 that received by a footballer, Billy Bremner, in a libel action against the *Sunday People* in 1982.

Dr Gee said he was relieved the case was over. He would donate some of the damages to medical charities.

The trial lasted nearly seven months, and became the most expensive libel suit in English legal history, with the BBC

agreeing to pay costs estimated at £1.2 million.

Dr Gee sued over a June 1983 edition of *That's Life* in which it was alleged that his treatment of slimming patients had endangered their lives.

Yesterday saw the end of his case against Dr Clemency Mitchell, a GP, of Binsfield, Berkshire, and a heart specialist, Dr Roger Blackwood, of King George VII Hospital, Windsor.

Mr Michael Beloff QC told the judge that the programme mounted an attack on Dr Gee's methods.

Mr Beloff told the judge, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson, that Dr Mitchell would pay Dr Gee £10,000, and Dr Blackwood would pay £15,000.

Because of the BBC's agreement over costs, the doctors' total costs should not exceed £100,000, informed sources said.

Hattersley commits Labour to repeal ban

Second GCHQ man given ultimatum over union

By Richard Norton-Taylor and Paul Hoggan

A second GCHQ official who rejoined his union in defiance of the Government ban has been warned by management that he will face disciplinary proceedings unless he hands in his union card.

The warning — delivered yesterday to Mr David Puddle, who works at the intelligence-gathering centre in Cheltenham — came as Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, promised that a Labour government would restore the rights of GCHQ workers to join a trade union of their choice.

The issue of workers' rights at GCHQ was also taken up yesterday by the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis. In a speech at the Wales TUC conference at Tenby, Dyfed, he called for massive resistance from the trade union movement if staff were dismissed.

Mr Hattersley made his pledge at the conference of the Civil Service Union in Blackpool. "In a democratic society membership of a free trade union is — or ought to be — an inalienable right. That right cannot be limited to the groups and classes which the Government decides is appropriate to enjoy such freedom," he said.

The Government's ban on unions at GCHQ called into question the strength of its commitment to the free and democratic society which people had always believed Britain to be. Management's threat to institute disciplinary proceedings against an employee who refused to give up his membership would have

seemed, 10 years ago, to have been written in Eastern Europe or Central America, he said.

The patriotism of GCHQ officials could "with profit to the whole nation, be copied by those ladies and gentlemen in the City of London who speculate against sterling, prefer to invest abroad in our competitors' economies rather than in jobs in Britain and intentionally undermine international confidence in any democratically elected government which does not endorse their political prejudices," Mr Hattersley said.

Mr Willis said at Tenby that he had a deep personal commitment to all the trade unionists at GCHQ. He saw them frequently and regarded it as an important part of his job to keep up their morale.

He warned the Welsh TUC that the prospect of dismissals came much closer this week when the GCHQ management told nine staff who had

rejoined unions to renounce their membership within five days or face disciplinary action.

"If one or more of them gets sacked for their belief in trade unionism, I expect — in fact I demand — a massive response from the trade union movement in their support for just as long as it takes to get justice," he said.

It became known yesterday that one of its most highly qualified mathematicians and linguists at GCHQ has accepted generous terms for early retirement from the management.

Mr Alexander Hamilton, aged 53, a member of the First Division Association and one of the most senior officials, refused to accept the Government's ban.

The Government's decision was described by staff as a "putting operational considerations to one side."

Nalco's strike threat

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

More than 400 staff in the National and Local Government Officers' Association threatened to strike from next Tuesday over the sacking of a press assistant alleged to have leaked internal union documents to Mr Derek Hutton, the deputy leader of Liverpool City Council.

Local officials of the white collar section of the Transport and General Workers' Union voted yesterday to back members of the National Union of Journalists in their decision to strike next week.

An internal Nalco inquiry found on Wednesday that there was overwhelming circumstantial evidence that a press assistant Mr Jim Roberts had leaked the documents concerning possible industrial action at Nalco Liverpool branch, to Mr Hutton.

Far left tries to forge alliance

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

An attempt to form a new alliance on the far left of the Labour Party is being launched by the editorial board of *London Labour Briefing*. It aims to mount a challenge Mr Neil Kinnock's leadership "as soon as possible" and to found a new left journal to promote a series of policy initiatives.

A letter has been sent by Mr Graham Bash of the briefing board to all the main Labour left groups asking them to attend a meeting at the Greater London Council on May 18. Recipients include the Campaign group of Labour MPs, the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Militant, Socialist Organisation and Socialist Action.

The letter speaks of the need for the socialist left to regroup to fight the right. Mr Bash says: "It would be wrong for one group of campaigns to pretend that it alone can be the sole vehicle for such unity. We are therefore calling on all socialist groups and currents within the left wing of the party to meet to discuss how to work together over the coming period."

London Labour Briefing was the monthly magazine around which Mr Ken Livingstone's campaign for the GLC leadership was based in 1981, but it has since become estranged from him.

Mr Bash makes a series of proposals for discussion at the May 18 meeting. They include preparation for "a serious challenge to the party leader and/or deputy leader as soon as possible" and "joint discussions to be started on the possibility of a new paper/journal of the left."

He also proposes joint campaigning within the party, using model resolutions at regional and national conferences, around a few key policy themes, such as support for the Benn/Hoffer withdrawal from NATO document, the Benn/Roberts Bill on withdrawal from Ireland, nationalisation of the banks and opposition to incomes policy.

Fire risks at ski hotels 'endanger school parties'

By Rosemary Collins

Fire risks in the European hotels used by leading operators of school skiing holidays are unacceptably high, according to the Consumers' Association.

A detailed survey of 33 hotels carried out for *Which?* magazine in Austria, France, Italy, and Switzerland showed safety standards worse "by a considerable margin" than those in earlier surveys of less specialist hotels.

"It must be the result either of profound ignorance of fire hazards or a cynical disregard for the lives of hotel guests," the Consumers' Association comments.

The survey found over-long dead-end corridors leading to stairways, little or no compartmentation against the spread of smoke, and inadequate fire-fighting equipment. Twenty-five of the hotels had inadequate fire-fighting equipment, 27 had inadequate emergency lighting and signs, and 24 had no fire alarm.

that we should have found such low standards in hotels used largely, though not exclusively, by school parties," Which? says.

"School parties present special risks because it is common to find four to six children sleeping in one room, and also the uninhibited behaviour of children on group trips can be expected to lead to accidents. Children cannot be expected to display the initiative and self-discipline you might expect of an adult when fire occurs."

Only three of the 33 hotels examined were rated good. The others ranged from fair to very poor.

The Consumers' Association is sending a full technical dossier on its findings to the national tourist offices of the countries covered by the survey, to the Government, and to the European Commission. The EEC Council of Ministers has before it a proposed new code of minimum fire safety standards for hotels, which is to be adopted.

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Biffen to drop plans to curb watchdog MPs

By our Political Staff
THE Leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, will bow to opposition from the chairman of the Commons select committees to his proposals that they should restrict their demands to see documents from the nationalised industries.

Mr Biffen has met with a united opposition to a letter which he sent out to Mr Terence Higgins, the Tory MP for Worthing, and chairman of the Commons Liaison Committee, suggesting that select committees should not use their powers to demand sensitive documents from the public corporations.

This followed a parliamentary row over the refusal of the Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, to allow British Shipbuilders to submit confidential documents on their operations to a select committee. He did not succeed, but Mr Biffen felt he had raised an important constitutional point.

Mr Biffen insists he was merely sending out feelers and was not looking for a confrontation with the select committees over their wide-ranging powers to summon for people and papers to be produced before them.

But Mr Biffen's letter was seen by the chairman as a government attempt to limit their constitutional power. However, it is now understood that Mr Biffen will not be pressing the matter.

Former Leader of the House Mr Norman St John-Stevas, who established the present select committees system, said yesterday that it would radically change the relationship between the select committees and the nationalised industries if MPs were denied the right of access to their papers.

He said in an interview on the BBC radio Today programme: "The present position is that the members of



Mr St John-Stevas: 'Radical change'

the nationalised industries are not servants of the Crown. They cannot shelter behind the minister and they are subject to the full power and full rigour of the committee and this will be changed."

This would make the work of the Energy, Transport, and Trade and Industry Committees and the Transport Committee very difficult indeed, he added.

It is also understood that Mr Biffen and the committee chairman agree on the need to stop any question of the committees accepting private money for their inquiries.

This follows the letter to Sir Hugh Rossi, the Tory chairman of the Environment Committee, from a private lobby company, Political Research and Communication International Limited, offering £5,500 towards the committee's travel expenses to Sweden to see systems involving large quantities of lead in the dumping and storage of high level radioactive waste. The company was acting on behalf of the Lead Development Association and the letter was strongly criticised.

Militant Tendency African link blamed

MILITANT Tendency supporters were blamed yesterday by the Labour Party's general secretary, Mr Jim Mortimer, for involvement in southern Africa following complaints by the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe.

Replying to Mr Mugabe's expression of concern about infiltration by Labour Party members into Zimbabwe, Mr Mortimer said in a statement that the Prime Minister was "under a misapprehension". The two individuals named by Mr Mugabe were supporters of the Labour Party in Britain — "a grouping which receives no backing or support from the national executive of the Labour Party," he said.

The NEC, added Mr Mortimer, had received a report on a militant-linked organisation working in southern Africa which concluded that any backing for it by the Labour Party would be detrimental to British relations in southern Africa. The NEC was advising its affiliated organisations to have no contact with the group.

Powell set for big fight

By Colin Brown
Mr Kenneth Powell, the Ulster Unionist MP for South Down, will live to fight again even if his private member's bill to ban research on embryos is blocked today by its opponents in the Commons.

Mr Powell is preparing to recruit as many supporters as possible to move the bill through today. This will require at least 100 MPs voting in favour of the ending of debate on the measure.

This procedure has its pitfalls and if he fails to force the bill through in time, he can still elect to put the bill before the Commons for its

report stage on May 10, 17 and July 5.

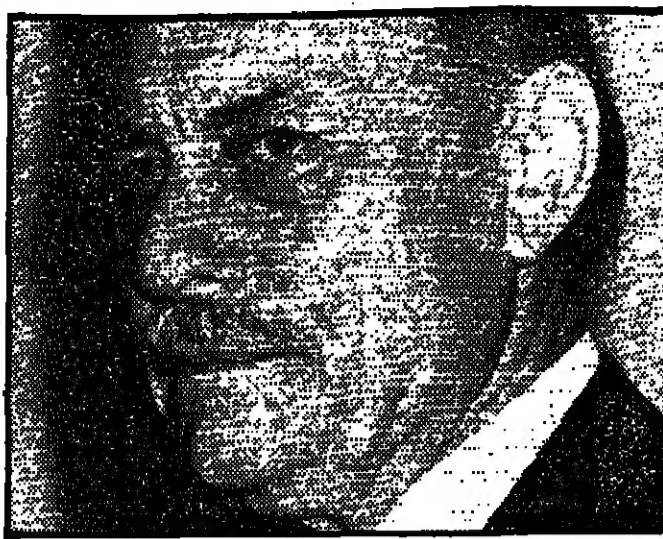
Mr Powell's problem today will be that the Tory sponsor of the bill to be heard first — the Road Traffic Production of Documents Bill — has refused to give way, thus allowing opponents to filibuster and delay the scrutiny of Mr Powell's bill.

On May 10, Miss Janet Fookes (C. Plymouth Drake), is seeking Commons approval for the report stage of her bill to outlaw herb crawling. Although she is a strong supporter of Mr Powell's bill, opponents could again filibuster.

The same could apply on May 17, when the Local Government Access to Informa-

tion Bill has precedence over Mr Powell. Again, the opponents have tabled a blocking motion against Mr Powell's bill. But Friday, July 5 is free.

However, it will soon be full up with Lords' amendments to private bills and if Mr Powell's bill does not get through today, it is unlikely to reach the Statute Book. Even so, Mr Powell and his supporters are insisting that they will bring forward their proposals again when the Government produces its full-scale legislation, probably in the next session on the Warnock Committee recommendations. Then, given more time, they could well succeed.



Mr Powell — hopes to force bill through today

Queues used to block immigration, claims Labour

IMMIGRATION

First-time applicants who emigrate from the Indian subcontinent to the United Kingdom are to be given priority over those who have been turned down before, the Home Office has announced.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Office Minister, claimed in the Commons that the reason for the 22-month waiting list for a first interview with an entry clearance officer

in Dhaka because far too many people were applying to emigrate whose applications had been previously refused and their appeals turned down.

He was replying to criticism from Labour MPs who had claimed that the Home Office was using the lengthening queues in the Indian subcontinent to stop people claiming their legal right to settle in Britain.

The rate at which the Home Office processes applications for entry from immigrants from the Indian subcontinent

have dropped considerably, Mr Tom Tawney (Lab. Bradford S.) told the Commons.

He claimed that the productivity rate of entry clearance officers had fallen by 36 per cent.

"What is the minister going to do about it? Is it due to the complexity of rules laid down by this Government?" he asked. Other Labour members claimed that there was now a 22-month waiting list for a first interview at Dhaka for wives and children who wanted to apply to join husbands already settled in the United Kingdom.

Mr Max Madden (Lab. Bradford W.) said that confidential papers leaked to the Guardian had shown that the Home Office was using lengthening waiting times to stop people entering the country who clearly had the right to do so.

Mr Waddington, however, denied that the briefing paper leaked to the Guardian had suggested such a conclusion and flatly denied that queues were used to limit immigration. He said that extra clearance

BLASPHEMY

'Fifth Gospel' under fire

THE Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, said yesterday that he would consider prosecuting for blasphemy a book describing sexual encounters between Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.

He was responding to a call for prosecution for blasphemy by the Tory MP, Sir Peter Mills, chairman of the Westminster Christian Fellowship, who is campaigning to stop next week's paperback publication of *The Wild Girl*.

The book, by Michele Roberts, is written as a Fifth Gospel from Mary Magdalene's viewpoint.

Sir Peter (Torridge and West Devon) said: "It is a disgraceful book. It vilifies the Christian religion by describing sexual encounters between Our Lord Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene. I believe it is blasphemous. We are really scraping the barrel when we have this sort of thing. I think it was time it was stopped."

Sir Peter, who said he had only read reviews of the book and not the book itself, added: "As chairman of the Christian Fellowship I shall be pursuing this matter with my colleagues across the parties here."

A spokesman for the book's publisher's Methuen, said: "We don't believe the book is blasphemous. We shall carry on with publication unless Sir Michael comes back to us."

In a Commons written answer to Sir Peter, Sir Michael said the MP's call for Methuen to be prosecuted for blasphemy for *The Wild Girl*, was "the first occasion on which the publication has been drawn to my attention. I will consider the matter and write to you."

GLC BILL

PR bid for ILEA poll

AN all-party group will be behind an attempt in the Lords next week to ensure that the Inner London Education Authority is elected by a proportion



Mr Christopher Chataway

tional representation under the provisions of the Local Government Bill abolishing the Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils.

The Fair Vote Campaign, which is leading demands for PR in UK elections, has secured the support of former Tory Minister Christopher Chataway, Labour MP Mr Austin Mitchell, Tory MP Mr Richard Ryder, and SDP supporter Anne Sofer, for the amendment to the bill tabled by an all-party group of peers.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Whitehall 'Arrogant'

A LEADING animal rights campaigner has accused the Home Office of "high-handed arrogance" and a "closed mind behind closed doors" attitude in its dealings with the animal welfare lobby.

The criticism follows a letter from the Home Office to Mobilisation for Laboratory Animals — an alliance of four of the country's largest anti-vivisection societies — stating that, due to a lack of "staff resources," it is unable to reply to their correspondence on proposed legislation on live animal research.

Mr John Robins, organising secretary of the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society and a member of the mobilisation group, said it was "intolerable" that a major government department was prepared to "blatantly ignore" submissions on such a sensitive issue from an organisation representing a substantial body of public opinion.

"By producing new legislative proposals and refusing to discuss them, the Home Office has adopted the closed doors policy of the researchers they seek to protect," said Mr Robins.

SOUTH AFRICA

Tutu accused

The black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, Bishop Tutu, was yesterday blamed for the violence against black people in his country by the Tory backbench MP, Mr Nicholas Winterton.

Mr Winterton, the MP for Macclesfield, attacked Bishop Tutu at the meeting of the Welsh, Irish, Scots, English Group at the Institute of Directors, in London, for refusing to speak out against the use of violence as a means of achieving social and political reform.

The Bishop had "blatantly supported those who turn such violence against both authorities and civilians alike," said Mr Winterton.

He added: "It was absolute hypocrisy that such a man of violence should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. For the sight on our television screens and pictures in the press of burned, mutilated corpses of innocent black people, women and children included, we have Bishop Tutu to thank."

Within the black population within South Africa, said Mr Winterton, was "a tiny minority of extremists — individuals who want no reform but only revolution."

We used to say the sky's the limit.

It was announced last week that Britain's first astronaut will be Squadron Leader Nigel Wood, aged 35, a test pilot in the Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Wood has been working with the US Air Force in California for the past three years and has observed six Shuttle landings. He will spend a week aboard the Shuttle in June 1986, with special responsibility for the launch of the £10 million British Skynet-4 military communications satellite, which is designed to provide more advanced communications between Britain's armed forces.

Announcing the choice, the Ministry of Defence said: "It was a difficult decision to make for all were quite outstanding candidates." Squadron Leader Wood said: "I'm just a normal chap who is very, very lucky to be getting the first ride. The British Skynet-4 satellite is at the very front of space technology."

RAF Engineer Officers, both men and women, will control from the ground Skynet-4 and its successors. And, in future years, more RAF Officers are expected to follow Squadron Leader Wood into space.

But the role of all the RAF's Officers in space, in the air and on the ground will remain the same: to work in conjunction with NATO forces for the defence of war.

The careers which are available in the RAF, even for those Officers who do not go into space, are some of the most exciting and challenging careers available anywhere on earth.

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For more information, call in at any RAF Careers Information Office or write to Group Captain Paul Terrett, OBE, (OT) Officer Careers (07/03/05), London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4PZ, giving your date of birth and qualifications. (Formal application must be made in the UK.)



RAF Officer

Institute makes gloomy forecast for arms talks

Survey condemns Star Wars as a 'dangerous risk'

By Hella Pick

The US Strategic Defence Initiative, the so-called Star Wars programme, is a dangerous risk to international stability, according to the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

The institute, in its annual survey, published yesterday, has thrown its weight behind the critics of SDI. It explains why the US attempt to put greater reliance on defensive weapons carries the risk of dangerously upsetting the precarious strategic balance between the superpowers, and may disrupt NATO's defence posture after a year in which Washington and Moscow must share the blame for failing to reduce international tensions, or to achieve progress in arms control negotiations.

The survey describes Star Wars as "the security policy centrepiece of the second Reagan Administration", and concludes that this search for defensive space-based weapons promises to be the most controversial issue of the coming year and for a long time afterwards.

While research is not far enough advanced to form any conclusions about the technological potential, the survey argues that "even if strategic defences were to prove feasible, they could damage stability rather than strengthen it".

One of the survey's few arguments in support of the programme is that it has opened an exhaustive re-examination of the assumptions behind existing strategic policies.

The director of the Institute, Dr Robert O'Neill, and his staff of experts, have excellent contacts in the Communist world and in the West. Their survey is scathing of the superpowers' performance and Dr O'Neill offers his own gloomy assessment that "there is little sign of progress either in the Geneva arms talks, or in the overall superpower relationship".

This, the survey says, is all the more disappointing since

East-West relations and arms negotiations were "hibernating" in 1984. The question last year was whether "either side would use the year fruitfully to prepare a fresh approach to resolving the issues between them." Unfortunately, the changes in the early part of 1985 do not raise hopes for a positive answer.

The Administration is criticised for failing to demonstrate that "the previously intractable issues of East-West relations might be approached more successfully in the years ahead."

Soviet foreign and defence policy is described as indecipherable and the Institute is doubtful whether any real changes can be expected, even from Mr Gorbachev, as long as Mr Andrei Gromyko remains as the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The survey is even more pessimistic about the prospects for arms control agreements than about the overall international climate, saying that "the deep and persistent divisions on the role of arms control" persist in the second Reagan Administration.

Even without this factor, however, the problems facing the negotiations in Geneva are almost intractable. The survey says that none of the divisive issues at the Geneva negotiations on intermediate and strategic nuclear weapons in 1983 has been resolved in the interim. "The two sides now just as much (and probably more than) they did when the negotiations were adjourned in 1983."

THE Soviet news agency, Tass, said yesterday that President Reagan's chief arms adviser, Mr Paul Nitze, had "grossly distorted" Moscow's position at the Geneva arms talks. Mr Nitze told the National Press Club in Washington on Wednesday that Moscow had offered few specifics and was blocking progress at the talks.

Reuter.

At the Geneva talks this year, there is the additional complication of space weapons. The survey refutes US arguments that agreements could be negotiated in Geneva by stages, with reductions in nuclear arsenals, even if no agreement can be reached on space weapons.

"The three sets of talks are interlocked, not only because of Soviet insistence, but also through the interrelationship of the three categories of weapons: each superpower's force structure."

The Institute has no way of assessing which of the superpowers is leading the space research, but since the Russians barely admit their interest in the development of new defence technology, it concludes that the Soviet Union "is undoubtedly guilty of hypocrisy... the US cannot reasonably be expected to make unilateral concessions" and agree to the Soviet Union's demand for a halt to President Reagan's Star Wars.

The Institute is concerned not only with the mainstream of East-West relations, but also with the Third World conflicts, and the relationship between the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies.

One of the few encouraging conclusions of the survey is that the situation in the Third World is the one in which the superpowers have found ways of avoiding direct confrontation in the world's crisis spots.

As for the Warsaw Pact countries, even though the treaty has just been renewed for 30 years, the Institute believes that the Soviet Union is finding it much harder to maintain the cohesion of the bloc. "Eastern Europe is a declining asset" to the Kremlin, and no longer offers "the Soviet Union a firm foundation for extending its political and economic hegemony westwards."

Published by IIS, 23 Tavistock Street London WC2E 7NQ.



Mrs Thatcher gets a welcome from Chancellor Helmut Kohl and an honour guard as she arrives in Bonn for the economic summit

New row as Bitburg ghosts refuse to lie down

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

PRESIDENT Reagan told West German leaders yesterday he had never wavered about his decision to go ahead with his visit to the German war cemetery at Bitburg, which contains 33 graves, despite the storm of protest he has faced.

In his first round of private talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday, Mr Reagan described the good post-war relations between Germany and the US as a miracle. Dr Kohl, in return, thanked him for the courage he had shown "in swimming against the political tide" in the US, where he has suffered serious political damage because of the planned visit.

But a new storm seemed to be brewing yesterday about a remark by the German Government spokesman, Mr Peter Bönisch, who quoted President Reagan as telling

the Chancellor that the Americans had long abandoned the idea of the "collective guilt" Germans bore for the Nazi tyranny.

Both President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl regret that there are voices again today which suggest that such collective guilt exists, Mr Bönisch said.

In a further illustration of the ill-temper that still surrounds the visit to the cemetery, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and future ambassador to Bonn, Mr Richard Bart, walked out of a press briefing over the Bitburg issue.

He had been enraged by a reporter who paraphrased Chancellor Kohl's remarks "that we must never forget and can never forgive," and then flippantly asked Mr Bart: "Who must we never forgive, the Americans or the Germans?"

In a fresh attempt to defuse the Bitburg furor, which continues to

overshadow the economic summit and President Reagan's state visit, Bonn announced yesterday that relatives of officers involved in the unsuccessful attempt on Hitler's life in July, 1944 would be at the ceremony.

They will include Colonel Berthold Graf von Stauffenberg, son of Colonel Klaus Graf von Stauffenberg, the officer who masterminded the attempt to kill Hitler with a bomb in his East Prussian headquarters. Stauffenberg was executed.

Jewish groups who travelled from the US to protest against the Bitburg visit said yesterday that they would stage a vigil on Sunday outside the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp which President Reagan is to visit before going on to the military cemetery.

He is trying to forget the six million Jews. He should therefore

be unwelcome in Bergen-Belsen. New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has brought 500 supporters, said.

Bonn, obviously relieved at the staunch support it has received from President Reagan over Bitburg, said that Mr Reagan and Chancellor Kohl agreed that this year's anniversary marked not only the end of the war and of Nazi barbarism, but also the beginning of a new friendship and partnership between Germans and Americans.

However, the controversy, which seems certain to flare up again during the visit on Sunday, has been fuelled further by revelations that the owner of Gynck Castle, where President Reagan is staying, was a godson of Hitler.

Asked whether he was aware of this, the President told a reporter: "All I know is that after one night I found out that there are no ghosts."

Peace—after 177 years

From Jane Walker in Madrid

THE TOWN of Mostoles, on the outskirts of Madrid, yesterday signed a peace treaty with France after unarmoured hostilities lasting 177 years.

Mr Batolome Gonzalez, the Socialist mayor of Mostoles, a dormitory suburb of Madrid with a population of 150,000 inhabitants, said that "henceforth there will be peace and friendship between the people of Mostoles and France."

When hostilities broke out in 1808, Mostoles was a small rural village hardly touched by the occupation of Spain by Napoleonic troops.

On May 2 that year, the people of the capital rebelled against the occupying French forces and the bloody battles which ensued and the massacre of hundreds of Madrilenos by the French were immortalised in the painting of Francisco Goya. The peace celebrations yesterday, which were attended by the French ambassador to Spain and the present mayor, took place in Mostoles town hall. They began with a mass in Spanish and French for the dead in the War of Independence of 1808, an offering of flowers to "the thousands of Spaniards who gave their lives for the freedom of France in the last world war."

A recent Spanish poll indicated that 53 per cent of Spaniards feel France is the principal enemy of Spain, followed by Morocco, England, and the United States. The Soviet Union was seen as the country's principal enemy by 5.8 per cent of the sample of 2,000 people questioned.

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Reuter.

Royals win big welcome

MILFETTA, Italy: The Prince and Princess of Wales drew by far the most enthusiastic welcome of their 17-day Italian tour yesterday when they visited a school for the deaf in this small town in the heel of Italy.

Several thousand people lined the streets and crowded balconies, cheering and waving British and Italian flags. Reuter.

Polish dissident is gaoled for May Day protest

Warsaw: The Polish dissident, Jacek Kuron, was gaoled for three months yesterday for three months for disturbing the peace and disobeying police during a May Day march by 10,000 Solidarity supporters.

Mr Kuron, who denied the accusations, was detained after he had taken part in a peaceful end to the two-hour march.

He was among dozens of Solidarity supporters, many of them young people, who appeared in court after being arrested. But Mr Kuron was given the harshest sentence the court could impose.

Mr Kuron, aged 31, was one of 12 Solidarity officials released from prison under an amnesty last year. He has been

in and out of prison for his opposition activities since the 1980s.

His lawyer told the court that he could not accept allegations by the prosecution, based on broadcasts by the

Munich-based radio station Radio Free Europe, that Mr Kuron had led the march.

The march, one of the biggest opposition parades in Warsaw since Solidarity was suppressed under martial law in 1981, began at the church of the pro-Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popiełuszko, who was murdered by security police last year.

Reuter.

Rocard hints he will be in the French presidential battle

From Campbell Fage in Paris

Mr Michel Rocard, who resigned as Minister of Agriculture in the Mitterrand government, has confirmed his interest in standing at the next presidential elections in 1988. He was an unsuccessful rival when President Francois Mitterrand gained the Socialist Party nomination in 1981.

In an interview on television, Mr Rocard was asked about being a candidate. "Why couldn't I be? When one has ideas, one is never exempt from the wish to apply them," he said.

In an opinion poll in this issue of the magazine, L'Evenement, Mr Rocard was favoured by 34 per cent of the

respondents. The Prime Minister, Mr Laurent Fabius, was supported by 29 per cent, while Mr Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Minister of Education, who is on the left of the party, was approved by only 7 per cent.

Mr Rocard, who stands for political and economic realism on the right of the party, left the government because he regarded Mitterrand's decision to introduce a proportional system in next year's parliamentary elections as a backward and defeatist step.

In his latest interview, Mr Rocard urged the party to think hard about the meaning of the government's policies. Action had not been accomplished by an explanation of poli-

cy from the left.

"The guarantee for the future that the left has learned to govern and that it will be mindful of its apprenticeship should come from the Socialist Party, but the party has not yet given that guarantee."

If the party acted as he suggested, it would win the parliamentary elections next year. "Since, however, there might be a need for coalition government, the Socialists should present a programme as a basis for future agreement with other parties."

Mr Rocard's ideas will be put to the test at the party congress in Toulouse in the autumn. It is assumed that he wants to influence rather than confront.

Reuter.

Moscow's lukewarm invitation

From Martin Walker in Moscow

The Soviet Union has sent Britain an invitation with the lowest possible profile to its big celebrations of the 40th anniversary of VE Day.

It has despatched what amounts to a round robin letter sent to all Moscow embassies to forward home. Britain is invited to send a representative to the three formal events marking the anniversary.

The invitation simply reads: "To embassies in Moscow: events connected with the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the great patriotic war. It then lists the formal May 8 celebrations in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses, the Red Square parade the next day, and a Kremlin reception later the same day."

The British embassy refused to comment on the invitation and said that no decision had yet been reached on why yet attend for Britain. Although Mrs Thatcher recently told the Commons that the Moscow ambassador, Sir John Sutherland, will probably attend.

The invitation was delivered to all embassies here on the eve of the May Day holidays. Soviet officials have refused to say whether they have received any invitation to attend the VE Day memorial service in Westminster Abbey in London. In contrast to their earlier plans for a reunion of the wartime allies, the Kremlin has apparently decided to play down international participation in its celebrations, at least where the West is concerned.

Strike halts Sweden

From Roland Stenbridge in Stockholm

All flights in and out of Sweden came to a standstill yesterday, and goods traffic by air, land, and sea ceased as the powerful civil service trade union, TCO-S, withdrew key workers in a pay dispute.

Stranded air passengers are travelling to nearby Norway and bus. The calling out of more customs officials has aroused fears that drug trafficking might increase greatly during the strike.

The strike—for wage increases in line with the private sector—involved 20,000 workers including one-fifth of Stockholm's police, school teachers in five municipalities, a fifth of the country's postmasters, customs officials, and the crews of icebreakers in the Baltic Sea.

Today, the state employees' association, SAV, is expected to respond by locking out a further 100,000 union members.

The strike has been designed to disturb foreign trade after a boom in 1984. Sweden's balance of trade fell to a 500 million deficit at the beginning of this year.

A prolonged conflict, costing Sweden about £100 million a day might provoke the Government into using legislation to stop the strike. This was done once before in 1971, and the recent Danish strike was crushed in this manner.

TCO-S, one of six public sector unions, reached its two-year agreement with SAV last year.

Budget struggle for Reagan

From Alex Brummer in Washington

President Reagan was forced yesterday to do some long distance lobbying on his budget from Bonn as the package of cuts agreed with his own Republican Party in the Senate began seriously to unravel in Washington.

A proposal to limit increases in social security and retirement pensions to 2 per cent has been voted down by 80 votes to 34. Because of this the Senate is threatening to freeze defence spending to make up the difference.

The Reagan-Senate budget proposal calls for some \$30 billion of budget cuts this year, rising to \$300 billion over the next three years. It was achieved by making severe cuts in domestic programmes, such as railway subsidies, limiting the cost of living adjustment on social security to 2 per cent against the inflation rate of nearly 5 per cent, and by holding defence spending to \$3 per cent increase.

The House of Representatives delivered the President another setback on his proposed Star Wars spending for 1986. The House Armed Services Committee, which is generally hawkish, has cut \$1.2 billion from the Strategic Defence Initiative of \$5.7 billion—a move which could slow the rapid pace of research which the President and his Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, are demanding.

The Senate budget proposal trimmed the SDI, but by a smaller amount. The House is seeking cuts in the defence budget of some \$30 billion which would freeze Pentagon spending at \$95.5 billion for 1986.

The President's concern that in his absence in Bonn the budget compromise was falling apart was reflected in his decision to phone several key senators asking them not to interfere with the carefully negotiated package.

The Administration was seeking to play down the latest budget setback yesterday. "When all is said and done, I think we will get something that looks very much like the President's budget," proposed Mr Larry Speakes, the President's press spokesman, said from Bonn.

Labour attack on Chile arms sales

By Patrick Kealey, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr George Foulkes, the opposition spokesman on Latin America, said last night that he was seeking a meeting with the Prime Minister about reported government backing for British arms sales to Chile.

Referring to disclosures in yesterday's Guardian and in the New Statesman about a Centaur helicopter army vehicle being shipped to Santiago for tests by the Chilean security forces, he said: "The choice for Britain is now between humanitarianism and arms sales."

"It seems likely that the Government has chosen the latter. It would be tragic if this were the case. I am, therefore, asking the Prime Minister to receive a delegation of human rights activists to make representations on this issue."

Mr Foulkes had earlier led a delegation to the Foreign Office to protest about torture and killings in Chile.

Documents leaked to the New Statesman indicate that Whitehall granted an export licence for the Centaur to be shipped from the factory in Anglesies to Santiago for the tests. The Centaur Government is inviting tenders for a \$6 million contract for 300 tracked reconnaissance vehicles.

Senior Whitehall sources said last night that would be wrong to assume that export licences would be automatically issued if Chile proposed to place the full order in Britain. The vehicle shipped by Laid to Chile had been licensed in January 1984, but political developments since then had greatly altered the

prospects for sales being allowed.

The sources said there had been four important declarations on Chilean deaths and torture cases by EEC leaders. The latest which came at the end of the Brussels summit, said: "The EEC notes with deep concern the deterioration of the situation in Chile, as regards the reestablishment of a pluralistic democracy and respect for civil and human rights."

Last year successive statements were made by EEC ministers over deaths in Chile. On November 13, EEC foreign ministers, deplored further violence in Chile and the proclamation of the state of siege there, "which denies the people of Chile the fundamental projection of the judicial system."

Mr Foulkes wanted to hear about conditions on Chile from a former MP, Mrs Maria Maluenda, who was also an ambassador in the Salvador Allende era. Her son, Jose Paranda Maluenda, an official of the Catholic Human Rights Office in Santiago, disappeared on March 28.

Friends say they saw him and the head of the teachers' union being arrested by a death squad. "Their bodies badly mutilated and with their throats cut, were found two days later."

After being seen by senior officials, Mrs Maluenda, Mr Foulkes, and members of the British Committee for Human Rights in Chile saw MPs at the Commons.

Mrs Maluenda, who has already met President Francois Mitterrand, is now in Rome to see President Pertini.

Drug officers crack down on Hells Angels gangs

From Mark Tran in Washington

In a national campaign against the Hells Angels motorcycle gang and similar groups, the Justice Department announced yesterday the arrests of more than 125 people charged with drug trafficking and other crimes.

The Attorney-General, Mr Edwin Meese, and the FBI director, Mr William Webster, said in a joint statement that

the arrests and searches began at dawn at more than 50 locations around the country. They were carried out by FBI agents.

Mr Webster said that the three-year-old undercover operation averted five potential murders. The Hells Angels made their reputation in the 1960s and shot to international notoriety when filmed stabbing a fan during a King Stones concert at Altamont, California.

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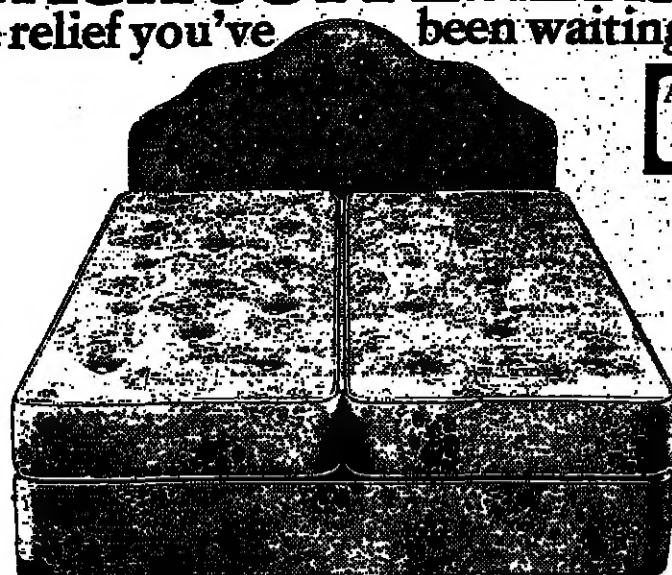
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Christian refugees with little faith in future

From Ian Black in Qlea, South Lebanon

AN OLD woman hobbled down the steps of the Qlea church hall clutching a foam mattress and two grey Israeli army blankets.

She sat on the parapet and surveyed the scene listlessly. Behind her, a young man in the uniform of the South Lebanon Army carried a large cardboard box bearing the International Red Cross symbol.

Down the road towards the border, another group of refugees from the Sidon area were beginning their second day in a neat line of olive green marquees laid out between the goalposts on the village football pitch. Mrs Barbara Livingstone, of Christians for Lebanon, gripped the hands of Mr Ibrahim Rizallah, and prayed aloud for his deliverance.

Mrs Livingstone's gospels may well have comforted some of the thousands of Christians who have been pouring into Israeli-controlled South Lebanon for the past week. But their faith has not helped them hide their anger about what brought them here.

In churches, schools, and makeshift camps all over the area, the refugees were complaining bitterly yesterday. "When the Israelis left the Muslims and the Palestinians took our land," groaned Jamil Makhoul from the vil-

lage of Ein Dik, near Sidon. "It is the fault of Amin Gemayel and the Lebanese government. They did nothing for us Christians."

The refugees' anger is directed more at President Amin Gemayel and at Samir Geagea, the leader of the rebel Christian Lebanese forces — whose shelling of the Palestinian camps round Sidon brought such harsh retribution — than at those who perpetrated the destruction.

"Is this what Geagea wanted?" asked Huda Mikhail, a haggard middle-aged housewife from Mia Mia, where the church was burned down by ELO men from the neighbouring refugee camp.

Alice Hanna came to Qlea with her four children after their village near Jezzine was attacked last week by a combined force of Palestinians, Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Sunni Nasserites. Her barbs, too, were reserved for the Christian leaders.

"Gemayel," she shouted, "tore up the agreement with Israel. All free Christian people wanted that agreement. We love the Israelis. Now we can trust only them and Lahad's men. They are the soldiers of God."

General Antoine Lahad's South Lebanon Army is still holding Christian Jezzine, to the north of the Israeli security zone, but among the tired and anxious refugees, who have found shelter here

— this week's version of the permanent and familiar play-act on the stage of Lebanon's unending tragedy — there are many who have seen too much to have any faith in anyone anymore.

"Most of my people just want somewhere to feel safe," said Elias Hourani, a shopkeeper from the coastal Kharroub region who has taken refuge in the Sisters of the Sacred Heart school in Marjayoun.

"Many of them want to go to Beirut, Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, has promised them safe passage but they don't believe him."

Estimates vary of the precise number of refugees in the Israeli-controlled south. According to Francis Rizk, a Qlea teacher and secretary of the aid committee set up to help house and feed the newcomers, there are between 12,000 and 20,000. Should Jezzine fall, or General Lahad be forced to withdraw, there will be many thousands more.

Accommodation is the biggest problem. But, yesterday at least, there seemed to be no shortage of basic food, much having been supplied by the Israelis.

"The Israelis are helping us," Mr Rizk said, "and they were the first to respond to our appeals. But many people are asking: Where is the Christian world? We don't want them to help us politically or militarily, but just as human beings."



The Israelis move out of southern Lebanon — and behind them they leave the Christian refugees who face an uncertain role in the country's unending tragedy

Warning of retaliation to villagers who aid guerrillas

Israel to use fear in border zone defence

Jerusalem: Israel intends to establish a "balance of fear" without a border security zone in south Lebanon and will retaliate against villagers aiding anti-Israeli guerrillas, a senior official said.

The official said Israel plans to set up local militias of 12 to 24 men in the three-to-six miles deep buffer area. Israel, he said, was spreading a message among the south Lebanese — cooperate with anti-Israeli activists from the north and risk retaliation, or prevent guerrillas from entering the area and live in peace.

The Israeli-armed South Lebanon army militia will continue to patrol the area, but its members from outside the security zone will be discharged and sent home, the official said.

Israeli forces will be stationed just across the border and come to the aid of the local militias and the SLA if they cannot maintain security. "In the security zone, there will be a balance of fear," the official said.

The Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, has said villagers in south Lebanon will not live in peace if northern Israel is attacked. "Nabatieh had 4,000 inhabitants when we came in. Now it has 60,000 and it can easily be returned to 4,000 in a matter of hours."

They know it, and that's why they're behaving," the official said.

Israel sees the coming weeks before the planned withdrawal by the beginning of June, as a time to disrupt the population to the idea that Israeli soldiers will be at the back and call of the local militia.

Officials here feel that their army has lost credibility in Lebanon through its retreat and now the Lebanese must be convinced that Israel is not turning its back on its northern border.

They acknowledge this will inflame some anti-Israeli sentiment but feel it is safer than ending all involvement, abandoning Israel's allies in the area and leaving the Galilee open to attack.

The Lebanese who live in the zone, a mix of Shi'ite Muslims in the west, Christians in the central sector, and Druze to the east, will learn that Israeli forces arrive within minutes to deal with any situation, according to the officials.

Israel will continue to pave roads, teach farming and provide medical care and water as part of its "good fence" policy begun in the late 1970s and accelerated in the past two years. It also is strengthening the border fortifications to block suicide car bombers. — Reuter.

Khamenei's sister defects to Baghdad

Baghdad: The sister of Iranian President Ali Khamenei has defected to Iraq just before the Iranian presidential election. She and her five children fled Iran to join her dissident husband here, she said yesterday.

Badri Hosseini Khamenei told a news conference she had left Iran by land "with the help of some friends" after her brother had refused to allow her to pass.

She said she would not engage in political activities, unlike her husband, Sheikh Ali Tehrani, who has been in Iraq for more than a year. He and the five children, aged between four and 22, were at the news conference arranged by the Iraqi Information Ministry.

Mrs Khamenei, aged 40, said she asked her brother for a passport eight months ago but he told her he could not do anything for her because Iran was at war with Iraq. Ahmed, son of Ayatollah Khamenei, had also refused to help, fearing she would join her husband.

"I told Ahmed the current regime in Iran is worse than that of the Shah because the Shah allowed your family to join your father (Khamenei) when he was expelled to Iraq more than 20 years ago," she said.

She added that she knew her defection would embarrass her brother. It comes as Iran announced that presidential elections will be held before July 22.

President Khamenei, aged 45, Iran's third President since the Islamic revolution, completes his four-year term in September but has not said whether he will seek a second term.

Mrs Khamenei arrived in Iraq with three of her children, aged 15, 14, and four. The other two arrived separately after being briefly under arrest in Iran.

Two oil tankers, one Nigerian and the other Japanese, came under air attack by Iran in the Gulf yesterday north of Qatar and at least one was hit, blazing. — Reuter.

KGB orders secrets

TEL AVIV: The KGB tried to obtain US missile sensors by forging a telexed order in the name of an Israeli military contractor, an Israeli daily said yesterday.

The Russians hoped to use them to improve the accuracy of their Katyusha rockets, used by Arab guerrillas and many Arab armies, Davar said. The paper's Washington correspondent reported that a Pentagon official told Israeli industrialists that the FBI foiled the plot.



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سكنا من الامم

Priest claims huts burned to prevent anyone returning

Ethiopia says refugees left camp of their own free will

Nairobi: Ethiopia yesterday denied newspaper reports that 50,000 famine victims were forcibly moved from a feeding centre last weekend, but a Catholic priest said at least that number had been ordered to return to their homes.

Mr Dawit Wolde Giorgis, head of the Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, said in Addis Ababa that the report was a fabrication.

He said 30,000 people at the camp at Dinet, northern Gondar Province, had freely decided to go home to work on their farms because of recent rains, and that 25,000 people remained at the feeding centre.

But Father Jack Finucane, field director of the Irish aid agency Concern, said that at least 50,000 famine victims were ordered—though not at gunpoint or through being immediately burned out—to leave the Dinet camp, and only 3,000 elderly or infirm people were left.

Father Finucane said the remainder were ordered home last weekend by officials of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, set up in September, 1984 by the Marxist government to oversee Ethiopia's Socialist development. By Tuesday, their huts had been burned down "to deter them from coming back," he said.

Mr Dawit said the 30,000 people who had opted to leave the feeding centre were given "provisions as well as seeds and farming implements and were allowed to go" to take advantage of the current rains to grow their own food.

Father Finucane, who visited Dinet on Tuesday and spoke to an eight-person Concern team there, said only a few people were given provisions but of

Punjab split puts peace in jeopardy

From Eric Silver in New Delhi

A leadership battle between moderates and militants inside the main Sikh party is threatening to upset efforts by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to restore peace to the Punjab.

The prospects for a negotiated settlement have now receded, despite a new pledge by Mr Gandhi to make every effort to end the conflict in the state.

Mr Harbansingh Singh Longowal, president of the Akali Dal, is fighting to stage off a takeover led by the 50-year-old father of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the preacher of violence who was killed last June when the army stormed the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Mr Joginder Singh said on Wednesday that the two rival Akali Dal factions, the more moderate under Mr Longowal and the more extreme under Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi—were merging under his leadership. He claimed they had authorised him to bring them together.

He also announced the formation of a nine-member committee to manage the party's affairs, and its composition leaves no doubt that it would be a committee to resist rather than to negotiate any compromise with the Government.

Its members include a former senior police officer known as Bhindranwale's ideological mentor and now under detention. An Indian diplomat who resigned after the Golden Temple action and sought political asylum in Norway, the brother of the extremist president of the Sikh Students' Federation, and Bhindranwale's older brother, Jagjit Singh Rode, who was released on bail earlier this week.

Mr Longowal said he had no right to dissolve the party. Even if as party chief he did not have the power to dissolve the party, he said.

He has called an Akali Dal conference in Amritsar on May 17 to discuss the new situation. It had, he said, created "confusions and misunderstandings" in the party and among Sikhs in general.

While admitting that he had authorised Mr Joginder Singh to promote unity, he maintained that he had never given him the right to dissolve the party or set up a committee.

Mr Gandhi's initial reaction was to say the Government would not do anything until the Akali Dal found an undisputed leader.

Mr Gandhi has tried hard in the past month to draw the Sikhs into negotiations. Most of the Akali leaders decried the storming of the Golden Temple have now been freed. A High Court judge is to investigate the massacre of Sikhs after the Gandhi assassination, and the Sikh Students' Federation, banned at the height of the Bhindranwale terror campaign a year ago, has been made legal.

The only Sikh term for resuming dialogue that the Prime Minister has rejected is an amnesty for Sikh soldiers who mutilated last June. But most are receiving lenient sentences from courts martial.

The problem remaining—sharpened by this week's claims and counter-claims inside the Akali Dal—is who now speaks for the Sikhs and, if an agreement were reached, could it be made to stick? As a reminder that the days of Sikh terror are not over, a local leader of Mr Gandhi's Congress party was shot dead on Wednesday.

The only Sikh member of the Cabinet, the Agriculture Minister, Mr Bhai Singh, had a heart attack in Parliament yesterday, and his condition was later reported to be comfortable. Reassured by the Golden Temple high priests last month, he continues to dispute their authority to penalise him.

A strike by government employees in the western state of Gujarat, where at least 73 people have been killed in two months of riots over a minorities policy, yesterday threatened to spread to new areas.

The Press Trust of India news agency said a union representing 700,000 state civil servants had called on members to stay away from work today and to go on indefinite strike from May 17.



Protest: Some 20,000 Filipinos mark May Day by burning an effigy of a three-headed monster depicting the Government, imperialism, and feudalism at a Manila rally on Wednesday

Soldier 'held gun' at Aquino

MANILA: The only person to admit to witnessing the murder of the Philippine opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, said yesterday that she saw a uniformed soldier point a gun at his head and then heard shots.

Ms Rebecca Quijano, aged 32, a businesswoman, was applauded and cheered by spectators when she took the stand for the first time—and lawyers and prosecutors rushed to guard her when the power failed and plunged the Manila court into darkness.

"I saw a gun held at the back of Aquino's head and heard gunfire," Ms Quijano testified, adding that the gunman wore the khaki uniform of the paramilitary Metropolitan Command (Metrocom).

She did not identify him. An official inquiry last year said that the gunman was either Constable 1st Class Rogelio



Ms. Quijano: key witness takes stand

Moreno of Metrocom who was behind Aquino or Sergeant Filomeno Miranda. Ms Quijano had been on the plane that brought Aquino from Taipei to Manila. He was killed as he left the airliner after returning from exile in the US in August, 1983.

Ms Quijano became known as "the crying lady" who burst into tears at the airport after the killing but then disappeared. She said that she agreed to testify after her lawyers said her best protection was to tell the truth.

Ms Quijano said yesterday that Aquino and the soldiers escorting him from the plane, were three-quarters of the way down the steps when she looked out of a window in the first class section, saw the gun and heard the shots. The military blamed the murder on Rolando Galman who it accused of being a Communist agent.—Reuter.

Vietcong 'betrayed by the North'

Paris: Amid the torrent of publicity surrounding the tenth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war, a former Vietnamese revolutionary leader sits in a small, simply furnished Paris apartment and remembers with bitterness.

Truong Nhu Tang stands out from other refugees who fled their homeland after the fall of Saigon and the communist takeover of South Vietnam in April, 1975.

He was a founder of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front (NLF), known to the Americans as the Vietcong, and a former minister in the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) which took power after the US-backed regime fell. It held power until North and South Vietnam were reunified in 1976.

In 1979, disillusioned with events, Tang fled by boat, the only senior revolutionary to do so. In a rare interview, he discussed his life and the reasons behind his decision to flee.

Tang, a small, gentle, grey-haired man in his 60s, said: "Today, 10 years after we won, I am personally so disappointed. I feel so sorry for my people, for my country, in as much as our revolution has been betrayed, and we have been cheated of our liberation."

A book by Tang on his experiences came out last month in the United States and is due to appear in Europe later this year.

Accusing the northern-dominated leadership of being ideologues who want to model the country on the Soviet Union, he said: "Those who act against the interests of the people will be overthrown by the people, they will be judged by history."

Tang, who as Minister of Justice in the PRG assumed the same job when Saigon fell, spoke of his bitterness at learning that after years of fighting alongside North Vietnamese army regulars, he and his fellow NLF guerrillas were to be edged out in the subsequent struggle for power.

Botha says victory 'a vote for reason'

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

President P. W. Botha yesterday described the victory of the ruling National Party in critical by-elections in Port Elizabeth and Harrismith as a vote of confidence from the white electorate for "balance and reason."

The NP retained its parliamentary and provincial council seats in Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, with slightly reduced majorities, while only just scraping home in the rural constituency of Harrismith.

The by-elections were the first poll test for Mr Botha since the NP's decision to scrap the controversial laws forbidding interracial sex and marriage, and the killing by police of 20 blacks at Langa on March 31.

Mr Botha said they took place in the teeth of an emotional campaign by ultra-rightwing forces against the pending repeal of the sex laws and in the midst of a recession which has forced the government to reduce the annual bonuses of civil servants and to refuse to grant an increase in the producer price of maize to farmers.

Civil servants and farmers have traditionally supported the NP, but in recent months many responded to assiduous wooing by Dr Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party, which has blamed the country's economic ills on government incompetence.

In Port Elizabeth, however, continuing rebellion in the townships almost certainly assisted the NP in beating off a challenge from the relatively liberal Progressive Federal Party. The PFF rather than the ultra-rightwing CP was the main threat to the NP in Port Elizabeth.

PFF leaders accused the NP during its campaign of adopting a highly conservative stance and of trying to link the PFF to the extra-parliamentary United Democratic Front, which President Botha has charged with joint responsibility for the outworn Apartheid National Congress for unrest in the townships.

"The NP fought almost a CP campaign against us, exploiting the Langa shooting to the full to create a siege-like mentality among the voters," Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert.

In the Harrismith provincial council by-election, the CP came within a whisker of defeating the NP, its candidate losing by less than 250 votes. The NP had not been expected to win the Free State Provincial Council since 1953, so complete has its domination of the province been.

It was against that background that the CP yesterday described the Harrismith result as "a tremendous achievement."

Its leader, Dr Treurnicht, remarked that Harrismith had only been 14th on the CP list of priorities in the Free State. He predicted that the CP would win Harrismith next time.

Police in Johannesburg said three more blacks were killed in anti-apartheid rioting yesterday, and three policemen were wounded when they were attacked by blacks throwing stones and firing singhats.

Police said rioting flared in six black areas around the country. They shot and killed two blacks during the pitched battles in Kwanobuhle, nine miles from Port Elizabeth.

Inquiry told police lied about shooting

Uitenhage: South African police conspired to give a completely fabricated account of how they shot dead 20 marchers in a black township, a lawyer told an official inquiry yesterday.

Police say a small patrol opened fire on March 31 when it was stoned by an aggressive crowd of 14,000 in Langa. But a lawyer for families of those killed and wounded told the inquiry here yesterday: "It is my submission that there is strong evidence of a deliberate and well-orchestrated police conspiracy to tell a fabricated story."

Mr Wim Trengrove told Judge Donald Kannemeyer that a boy on a bicycle, Moses Buwawa, was the key to whether the police account was true. The police account was that Langa people say to a funeral walking peacefully to a township, in a neighbouring township,



Harchand Singh Longowal: takeover target

Chinese swing into golfing

Shisanling, China: A Chinese revolutionary hero, Wang Zhen, swapped his lacquered cane for a three-iron yesterday and, at the second attempt, nudged his golf ball a few yards into the valley of the Ming emperors.

Wang, aged 77, a member of the Communist party politburo, was attending ceremonies to mark the start of construction of Peking's first golf course, a \$16 million Sino-Japanese venture, at Shisanling, north-west of the capital.

The shibui old man in a strict black Mao suit missed on his first swing off a makeshift tee, but his second blow sent the ball bounding down the first fairway which had been sprayed with green paint for the occasion.

The Japanese ambassador, Yosuke Nakae, then took a turn. His first drive also failed to make contact and the pink rosette he was wearing fell off.

The Peking International Golf Club is due to open in a year. It is being built by Japan Golf Promotion Incorporated in collaboration with the local authority responsible for the Shisanling Valley—the once-banned resting place of 13 of the 16 Ming Dynasty emperors who ruled China from 1368 to 1644.

Access to the valley was long forbidden to all except the living emperor, and the staff who maintained the temple buildings.

A farming commune was established in the valley after the victory of the Communists in 1949, and two tombs were restored for tourists, but the others have fallen into ruin.

China has indicated that it will break with its Maoist past and play a stabilising role in Asia, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said in London yesterday.

The institute, however, raised doubts as to whether the new course charted by China's 80-year-old leader, Deng Xiaoping, could be maintained after his death because no charismatic figure in the same mould was waiting in the wings.—Reuter.

Peking to fight drugs

From Mary-Louise O'Callaghan in Peking

China is grappling with a drug problem, including opium and heroin trafficking, despite earlier denials, officials have admitted.

The deputy governor of Yunnan Province in south China, which borders Burma, Laos and Vietnam, said recently that drugs were being smuggled across the border and some people had a drug problem.

Foreign students here have long found marijuana readily available but Mr Zhu's comments are the first official confirmation of the drug problem.

Four years old. Seriously underweight for her age. Scavenging for food where she can find it. And she's English.

With a stepfather who refused to acknowledge that she even existed and a mother who was too frightened to help her, this child was being slowly and deliberately starved.

She was feeding herself out of dustbins, and when the case came to our attention the child was suffering seriously from malnutrition.

It didn't happen in the famine stricken third world. It happened in a nice English town, (like the one you live in).

The NSPCC doesn't set out to punish the parents or break up the home.

We can give positive help by protecting the child while we provide assistance and advice that both the child and the parents obviously need.

£15.48 can protect a



child for two weeks. That's the sum we're asking for now.

The rate of public donations is just about keeping pace with the number of new cases we have to tackle.

If ever that source of money dries up, we'll have to seriously cut back our services.

If you can't afford a fortnight's worth of protection, whatever you can afford will be gratefully received.

And it will all go to help more than 40,000 of your fellow countrymen.

I would like to help protect a child, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £15.48. Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No.

Signature

Name

Address

Postcode

NSPCC

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilman, NSPCC, Red Cross House, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2ES.



THIRD COLUMN

Home is the hunted

ON FRIDAY, March 29, Manuel Guerrero, primary school teacher, 36 years old, leader of the Santiago Branch of the teachers' trade union, had his throat cut by a Right-wing death squad on a road near the international airport of Santiago. Killed with him were Jose Manuel Parada, who worked in the department of law at the human rights office of the Catholic Church, the Vicaria de la Solidaridad, and Santiago Natio Allende, a 64-year-old painter, and a leader of the teachers' union.

Another teacher, Leopoldo Munoz, who tried to stop the abduction, is now in hospital in a critical condition after being shot. General Pinochet's secret police, the CNI, raided the headquarters of the teachers' union the next day.

I first met Manuel Guerrero during a short visit he made to London in 1980. He had been a youth leader in Chile and so, Chilean exiles of the Young Popular Unity (YUP), who had supported Allende's government, organised a series of meetings with British youth organisations.

Manuel gave them greetings in the name of the Chilean youth fighting against Pinochet's dictatorship, and we learned about the organisations we visited and sought ways to increase solidarity with the democratic struggle in Chile. Manuel also had numerous meetings with groups from the exiled Chilean community here.

Three years later to our great surprise we found out he had returned to Chile, which he had left because his life was in danger.

Manuel was one of the very few "disappeared" who had reappeared.

His "disappearance" was a long 20 days of sustained threats and ill-treatment. He was detained in June, 1976 in La Florida, Santiago. As is usual in these cases, his captors got out of a car and started beating him up in a brutal way without any kind of warning. As he resisted they shot him. The bullet went through his chest and lodged under a bone. His captors would later tell him that he was a "lucky man" and would also ask him, laughing at him, to fill out their weekly betting cards. Even during torture they would remind him, "You are a lucky man".

Manuel did not talk about this. I remember that. But, knowing how painful his time in detention had been, I once asked him about it. I was also a detainee once and was tortured and I know how difficult it is to talk about these things. But I did it to have his own direct account.

Now I remember that he told me how they had even gone as far as using his bullet wound to torture him. Another thing he mentioned was that he was blindfolded so he would not recognise his torturers later.

He thought that the psychological damage which is required to become a torturer must be expressed in some kind of deformity easily apparent to the naked eye — a distorted face, a look which betrayed the cruel mind of the torturer. But this was not so. Once, he said, his bandage fell off or they took it off and he was able to see their faces. They seemed perfectly ordinary guys.

Manuel's return to Chile was dramatic. In an interview by the magazine *Analisis* (today banned by Pinochet), he tells how he was recognised at the airport by agents of the secret police, CNI. "It's him, it's him," they said. In one way or another that "it's him" heard many minds after landing on Chilean soil would go on ringing throughout the two years that Manuel Guerrero managed to live in Chile.

He was subjected to constant pressure and surveillance, which went on throughout the last months of his life. His crime was to be a leading member of AGECH, the Chilean teachers' union.

Every month and from different parts of the world, Chileans return to their country. A British friend asked me the other day: "But why are you all going back? Here you will not be followed or killed by Pinochet's secret police."

Perhaps the answer to such a sensible question lies in the "Tourist Snaphshots of Chile" which Adrian Mitchell brought back from Santiago last September. "They (Chilean exiles) returned to Chile now, not because it's safe to do so but because they want to be home, especially now when anything may happen."

Osvaldo Ramirez

Osvaldo Ramirez is a Chilean living in London.

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Chiam See Tong — after the triumph not a smooth ride

Clive Syddall reports on the impact of Singapore's coffee-shop Opposition

Two-man band calls the tune

IT'S 7 o'clock on a Thursday evening and the Potong Pasir coffee shop is preparing for the busiest night of the week. The chatter is not idle neighbourhood gossip. There's a small of politics in the air. A small bespectacled man with a slight stoop enters the shop and the customers start clamouring for his attention, pressing to get near him and shake his hand.

Chiam See Tong holds an unusual office in Singapore, that of an Opposition MP and leader of the Workers' Party, who in 1982 became the country's first opposition M.P. for more than 15 years. They form the small official Opposition to Lee Kuan Yew's governing Parliamentary Action Party.

Chiam campaigned to make Singapore more democratic, attacked the high cost of public housing, the streaming of school children into fast and slow learners at an early age, and Lee's graduate mothers' programme, a system of incentives to encourage highly educated women to have more babies, and the rest to undergo sterilisation.

Chiam won convincingly with a 60% majority in his own constituency. Jayaratnam was re-elected to his Anson district by a smaller margin, Lee Kuan Yew, re-elected to his constituency with a narrow margin.

In a country whose government has a reputation for being aloof from the people, Chiam went out of his way to sit down with constituents and talk about their problems over a cup of coffee. It was the first time that any political candidate had reached out to meet the local people.

Sitting in a coffee shop was too low for the government candidates," said Chiam. "Before they met the electorate, an elaborate reception was laid on. Buildings were painted and litter cleared from the streets. How could they expect to communicate with the people?"

He claims his coffee shop meetings were a major factor in his surprise victory. Today he still uses the coffee shops as an unofficial "surgery", and a place to meet supporters.

Outside the coffee shop, a queue of over 100 people had formed by a makeshift office with tables and chairs in what is known as a "void" underneath one of the lower blocks. A big red banner over the table proclaims "Meet The People Session — Service Before Self".

Residents line up to seek their M.P.'s views on government policies and pour out their problems. A distressed Chinese woman in her late

forties tells Chiam about her Malay husband who has been refused a renewal of his temporary work permit and risks being deported back to Malaysia in ten days' time. Although they have been married for 15 years, the authorities still refuse to give her husband a permanent visa to work in Singapore.

At another table an orchid farmer tells Chiam his story. He had a successful business growing orchids until the Prayers Production Department, for no apparent reason, ordered him to stop growing orchids and start growing vegetables instead.

Unfortunately, he knew nothing about growing vegetables and that business failed. Two years later, when the department decided to reverse its earlier decision, his vegetables had failed, his valuable orchids had died, and he was bankrupt. He is now fighting for compensation and he needs Chiam's support and advice.

"Government officials here have a take it or leave it attitude," Chiam says. "They make a decision and that is it. It is hard to fight officials here and many people feel they have no redress against 'Big Brother' attitude, so I am sometimes their last hope."

Soon after taking his seat in parliament, Chiam, a teacher turned lawyer, discovered that he was subject to the abuse traditionally reserved

for Opposition MPs. As he put it, "I haven't exactly had a smooth ride." One P.A.P. MP accused Chiam of "putting poison in people's minds". Another called him "a danger to Singapore."

None of this comes as a surprise to J. B. Jayaratnam, Singapore's other Opposition MP. "This place is run by a load of faceless technocrats and zombies," he said. During his first term in parliament, there was very little he could do but point out questions of government ministers who often treated him with contempt. However, that attitude may now change.

"Now," he said, "the Opposition can make motions because Chiam will be there to second them." He longs for the return of the British House of Commons style of parliamentary democracy to Singapore where the job of the Opposition is to oppose, but Chiam is less radical than

J.B. and has his own ideas of the role of the Opposition.

"In our society, you cannot oppose for Opposition's sake, if we did that we would be misunderstood. In Singapore, the public wants to see us play a constructive role or a complementary role to the government. But when the government is wrong, we will say so." Chiam is prepared to give due credit to Lee Kuan Yew's achievements in Singapore, saying he was probably the only man who could have turned the country round economically.

He feels, however, that now the country is financially sound, it is time to relax some of the more restrictive policies where they affect Singaporeans' personal freedom.

One factor helping Chiam to establish himself with the public has been the recent introduction of television into parliament. "Taxi drivers

ers, labourers and hawkers who thought members of the government were invested with some superhuman powers can now see they are ordinary people like themselves. Televising parliament has been good for the Opposition."

Chiam may have a point. A senior Singapore Broadcasting Corporation executive agrees that televising proceedings has taken the mystique out of parliament, and a senior aide to the Prime Minister confided that, apart from Mr Lee, government ministers are not very good on TV and "we are looking at ways to improve them."

The important question is whether this two-man Opposition can grow into something that will have more influence. There are signs that it will. Shook by the size of the Opposition vote, the government is already reviewing many of its controversial policies which were under attack during the election, including the much distrusted graduate mothers' programme which is now likely to be dropped.

There are also signs that people are more willing to join the opposition party. Chiam's GDP went into the last election with only 200 members, it now has over 1,500 and the number is still rising.

It is notoriously difficult, however, to openly oppose the government. There are regulations that prohibit

political rallies and speeches except during an official election campaign. People are restrained from criticising the government for fear of reprisals; even letters sent to the national newspapers commenting adversely on the government's policies are published under assumed names. It has not been unknown for critics to be arrested and held without trial.

Members of the governing party still ridicule Opposition politicians for their inexperience and humble backgrounds, but some senior ministers are now beginning to acknowledge Chiam's political presence.

Lee Hsien Long, the prime minister's son and newly elected MP, said, "If I set a policy and Chiam can stand up and convince half the population that it's absurd, then either it's absurd, or I'm not a very good salesman."

Both MPs agree that the next four years are crucial for the Opposition. As Chiam puts it: "If we don't keep up the momentum and we fail to check this government's increasing power, then Singapore will end up as a totalitarian state."

As I walked away from the coffee shop late that night, one of Chiam's supporters raced after me and grabbed me by the arm. "You journalist," he said, "You Western journalist, go back and tell them what it's really like — there's no democracy here."

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- Population 2.4 millions
- Per capita income \$6,000
- Economic growth rate 7.4 per cent
- Parliamentary Action Party of Lee Kuan Yew in power since 1959
- Government campaigns encourage the well-educated to have more children and the less educated to have fewer
- Banned as socially undesirable: long hair-on-men, chewing gum, and the Rolling Stones

CHINA

People's courtship

Michael Jenner on the determined push to improve legal services

ONE of the most puzzling events of recent years in China was the call last May by Deng Xiaoping for 500,000 lawyers — more even than in the United States. At present there are only 15,000.

For over 2,000 years lawyers have played a small role in China. For most of the Imperial period law was rudimentary, consisting mainly of criminal law. The moral code (li) was more important than the law, which educated people were taught to despise as an inferior form of social control.

In the first decades of this century western style codes of law were introduced, new courts were established, and law schools were set up in universities. But the number of trained lawyers was small.

After the Communists came to power in 1949 the notion of a legal order independent of the will of the party was untenable. Judges were chosen for their political reliability. From 1967 to 1972 in the Cultural Revolution the situation was even worse.

The turn of the tide is generally dated from the Third Plenary Session of the Central People's Congress in December 1978, which issued a communique that "there must be laws for people to follow, those laws must be observed, the subversion must be strict and lawbreakers must be dealt with".

The conversion to some idea of the rule of law since Deng took over in 1977 seems real as far as it goes. Decrees of new laws including two successive constitutions have been enacted. The 1982 Constitution established the formal supremacy of the law even over the army and the party. ("No organisation or individual shall enjoy privileges that transcend the Constitution and the Law.")

The legal profession was reconstituted by the National People's Congress in August, 1980. Today there are more than 2,000 legal advisory offices. Lawyers are state salaried employees who act as legal advisers and appear as advocates in court — though non-lawyers can appear as advocates as well.

Law schools have been started again in nearly 30 universities and institutes, and law graduates are coming off the production line in substantial numbers. Law is being brought to the people by massive publicity campaigns through the press and TV and public education programmes.

The new policy of opening China to foreign legal influences is being vigorously pursued. Since 1980 there have been more than 100 visiting foreign legal delegations,

many sponsored by the ministry of justice. We were told repeatedly that the Chinese were anxious to study the common law system and especially its approach to the control of the bureaucracy through administrative law.

Nevertheless it is difficult to imagine that either Chinese lawyers or courts will in the foreseeable future be able to play a role comparable to that of their counterparts in the West.

In jeopardy? The Mohammed Ali Mosque. Picture by Michael Jenner

Picture by Michael Jenner

Picture by Michael Jenner

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Picture by Michael Jenner

Picture by Michael Jenner

ANGLO-AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS

The present generation of judges for the most part appear to have more of a legal background.

Even though this is gradually changing, the Constitution, which appears to guarantee the independence of the courts somewhat inconsistently, also makes the judges accountable to the National People's Congress, and its Standing Committee.

Happy the country that can find an acceptable alternative to lawyers and litigation.

Happy the country that can find an acceptable alternative to lawyers and litigation.

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CHRISTOPHER BOOKER

on the state of cricket:
 "For the first time in the history of the game, if there was a World XI picked to play Mars, it is highly dubious whether any Englishman or Australian would deserve a place... In fact there is a good argument that the best current World XI might all be West Indians, since it seems generally accepted that Clive Lloyd's side of last year, so strong in all departments, ranks among the two or three greatest teams ever to play."

GAVIN STAMP

on Mansion House Square:
 "If the Government can endorse a scheme which will replace a network of City streets by a barren open space and a 19-storey tower designed by the late Miles van der Robe, the 99-year-old German modernist, then clearly it is minded to give planning permission to almost anything."

DUNCAN FALLOWELL

on sex:
 "The corruption of innocence, morally reprehensible in our society, is nonetheless a most necessary task if life is to continue..."

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GRAHAM GREENE



PIES GALORE: Gillian Hanna and Leon Greene in *Sweeney Todd* and (right) Joanna McCullum as Jane Marryot in *Cavalcade*. Pictures by Douglas Jeffery

Nicholas de Jongh reviews *Sweeney Todd* at the New Half Moon and Michael Billington reviews *Cavalcade* at Chichester

Carving up old England

THEY CALL Stephen Sondheim's musical a melodrama or thriller. But his demon barber of Fleet Street, whose late Victorian victims end up as meat pies, with blood and unspeakable portions clogging the sewers, is no more extreme than our recent mass murder of north London, Dennis Nilson.

And Christopher Bond's revival of *Sweeney*, with his own original adaptation of the story, is right to take the moral force and fury of the narrative as seriously as Sondheim takes and makes his music.

At the New Half Moon, which emerges rough and unready as a fan-shaped auditorium and a small triangular stage within a square interior, the revival is a sombre, passionate rendition of Victorian low life.

Eileen Cairns's design has cut-out facades of doorways, cat-walks and windows, a central platform for *Sweeney*'s slaughter shop,

and a ground level with sliding-doors which lead to the glowing fires "where humans fry". But Bond, having cast most of the production in fur, half light, hardly ever allows the production merely to teeter into the straits of ghouliness and hollow laughter. He shows a city and people individually obsessed, with any sense of justice gone missing.

Sweeney, who seeks vengeance for the judge's abduction of wife and daughter after 15 years' hard labour, is in Leon Greene's thrilling performance, a man reduced to a single longing.

But there is no prevailing consistency of tone. Although Bernard Martin's Judge and Andrew Schofield's Tobias, who goes white-haired and mad in the sewers, contribute to the musical's chilling furies, Gillian Hanna's Mrs Lovett goes over the top within the first five minutes.

Yet Sondheim's music, played by a band of five on

instruments ranging from flugelhorn to soprano saxophone, beautifully matches and complements text and action.

Nicholas de Jongh

NOEL COWARD'S *Cavalcade*, which launches the Chichester Festival season in spectacular style, is a 1931 Drury Lane pageant-play that has had influence disproportionate to its quality.

It pre-figures formally *Upstairs Downstairs*, *Forty Years On*, *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *The Hired Man*, and many more. The odd thing is that it is a seminal English play despite the fact that few people have seen it and that the writing rarely shows Coward at his best.

What it does have is a consistent vision of England: basically a wistful lament for the crush-up of the old order and a distant both for private hedonism and social progress.

Starting at the dawn of

the century and ending in 1930, it interweaves massive public events with the private lives of the Marryots and the Bridges.

The former are an upper-crust family who lose their male offspring to the Titanic and the trenches; the latter are their downstairs servants who break free to run a London pub.

Coward shows the breakdown of the class structure through the affair between the stiff-lipped Joe Marryot and the showgirl Fanny Bridges; and his vision of a disintegrating England is compounded by his climactic song, *Twentieth Century Blues*, with its image of "chaos and confusion".

Coward was entitled to his conservative views: the problem is the dramatic scenes are little more than sketches between the spectacular numbers (even the famous honeymoon scene aboard the Titanic now seems replete with heavy prophetic irony).

Michael Billington

What you cannot deny is Coward's instinct for theatrical effect, and here David Gilmore's fine production not merely rises to the occasion but actually improves upon it.

The one thing I find odd is his rearrangement of Coward's climax. *Twentieth Century Blues* and a vision of Jazz Age chaos, pierced by the National Anthem.

Roger Glossop's designs and Colin Sell's musical direction, with its poignant use of brass bands, also make vital contributions.

These reviews appeared in later editions yesterday.

End of a dynasty

Hugh Canning pays tribute to Bridget d'Oyly Carte who died yesterday

THE DEATH OF Dame Bridget d'Oyly Carte yesterday, at her Buckinghamshire home aged 77, brings to an end the dynasty of theatrical impresarios and hoteliers whose name became inextricably linked with those of W S Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan and their "Savoy" operas.

Her grandfather Richard founded D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, then known as the Comedy Opera Company, in 1875, following the success of the first Gilbert and Sullivan collaboration, the one-act *Trial by Jury*, the previous year.

Over the succeeding seventeen years he guided the often thorny relationship between the composer and his

librettist, acting as go-between towards the creation of eleven operas. Five have become immortal international favourites, establishing a core repertory for the opera company.

Dame Bridget entered the family business in 1933 as assistant to her father Rupert and assumed complete control over the opera company when he died in 1948. Though in later years she improved herself immensely with the running of the Savoy, taking a leading role in the interior decoration of the theatre, she was an active trustee and made a point of never missing D'Oyly Carte first

night in New York, where the company's following was, if anything, stronger than in London.

D'Oyly Carte performances survived on the company directors' business acumen for over 100 years, but towards the end of the sixties, the costs of maintaining the ensemble at full strength led them to approach the Arts Council for a small contribution towards running costs.

Dame Bridget was highly critical of the Council's negative response and the terms recalled a promised underfunding in 1975 when the company really was in trouble.

Dame Bridget was created a Dame in 1977.

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SOUTHAMPTON
 Alastair Macaulay

Ballet
Rambert

TAUT, electric, urgent, Dangerous Liaisons, a new work for six dancers, is recognisably by Richard Alston. Ballet Rambert's resident choreographer—and yet like nothing else he has made. At once it belongs up there with his finest.

The whole nature of Alston's movement phrases—in which dancers accentuate the vertical balance, then, in falling away from it, acquire a horizontal impetus like a wave breaking, and then scoop up into the vertical emphasis again—thus becomes charged with tension and peril. How oddly and rightly this matches Simon Waters' electronic score, made from twangs, ticks, clangs and boings.

Alston's musicality is uncanny. Taking this apparent non-music, he shows its rhythms, pressures and textures—shows it as music, in fact. And all so concentrated.

The work's expressive force is thrilling, the variety of its incidents startling. Threesomes meet in classical tableaux as if in quest of unity, in need of collectedness, only to be shattered by the forces of the dance. And yet these dancers aren't passive, they are themselves the forces of constant mutation.

There are countless echoes of older classical traditions from Blais to Cunningham. But they're old pieces in a new mosaic. Although the scene is fraught and confused, the piece is not about anarchy or disintegration. In an image that's repeated to powerful deep twangs in the score, all six dancers arrive in unison fifth position, plunging together into this vertical pose, suddenly becoming sentries out of the disorder.

The work's urgency of

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 By Anton Chekhov

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 Time Out

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NATASHA RICHARDSON "OUTSTANDING"
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noise and dance seem not chaotic but—against the compassionate forces of silence and emptiness—wonderful. As Alston's dancers stretch themselves into those upward-facing and backbent poses that will in a moment be lost again, they seem heroic. And in this remote, transient universe, the workings of humanity seem urgently civilized.

The four women and two men reveal the work's vividness, commitment and precision. Richard Smith's jerky lights make them look like Picasso acrobats in space, an impression accentuated by Peter Mumford's dramatic lighting and the black backdrop.

TAUNTON

Allen Saddler

Deadlock

DEADLOCK is an adaptation, by Leslie Sands, of Zola's novel, *Therese Raquin*. It is a melodramatic tale of sexual passion driving lovers into murder. The story rests on just taking over from reason; but little of this powerful theme comes through in this production from the newly formed touring Lyceum production.

It may well be that real life melodrama leaves the participants stunned, with only small change conversation to cover depth of feeling. But the exchanges need to be understood with emotion. This set of characters rarely rise above sullen despair.

The opening scenes did not establish the idea of sheer animal attraction being strong enough to risk the necks of the two lovers.

Hildegard Neil's embraces were hardly unrestrained and Jack Carr's wooing was equally casual. They improved when, racked with guilt and remorse, they bickered in bitter recriminations; but even this scene only had the force of a domestic quarrel.

Hazel Douglas fared little better in the plum part of the mother of the murdered man, who is robbed of speech and movement on overhearing the truth. The actors seemed to be treading treacle in a play where full-blooded acting might have brought on a fit of these giggles.

On the other hand realism is hardly enough for just a grim moral tale.

Nicholas Smith, put in an appearance as the ex-policeman, who smells a rat, but over his solid presence could not prevent the play sinking slowly, drowning all aboard.

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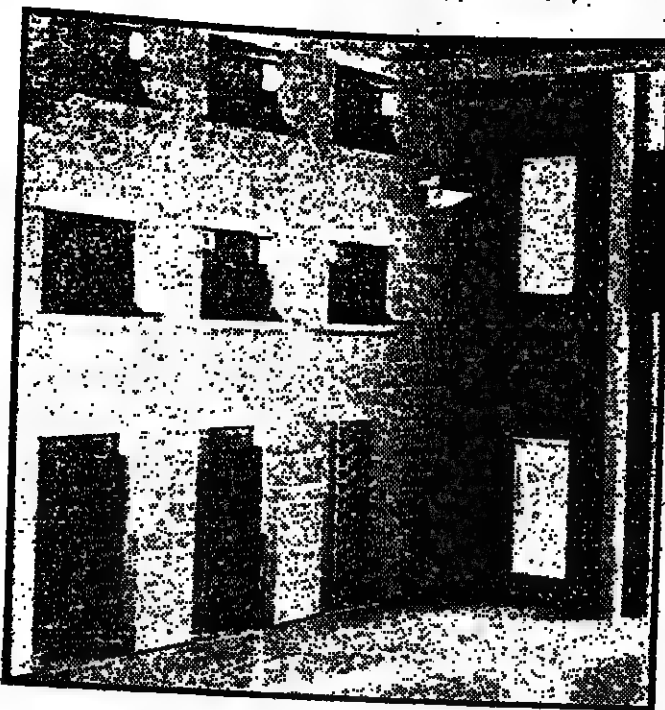
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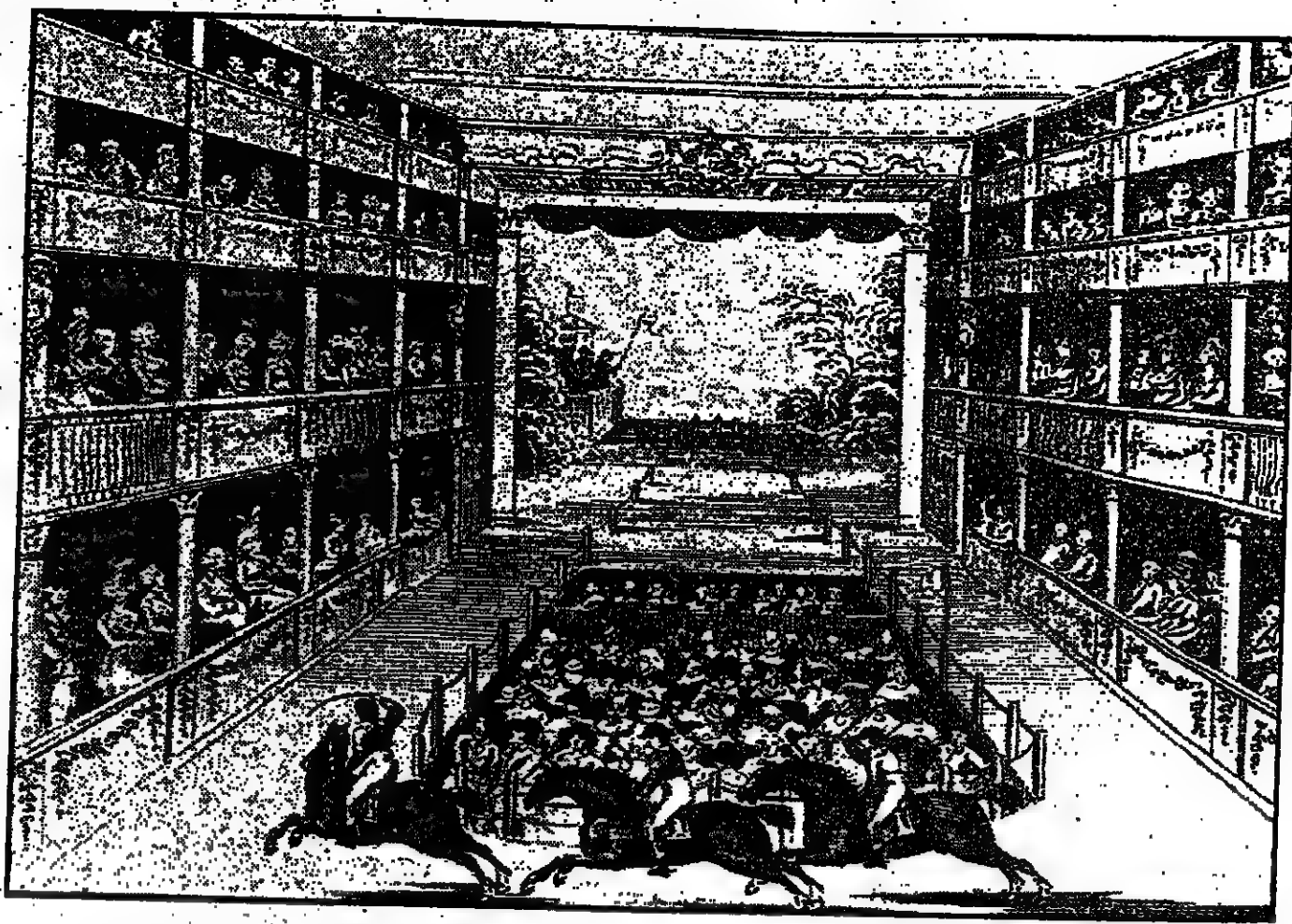
1520 من المرحل



Street corner of the New Half Moon Theatre, left: Diana Manners (Duff-Cooper) as the Virgin, above: and pony races at a Theatre Royal-cum-Hippodrome in the 18th century.

Tom Sutcliffe reflects on the shape of things to come in theatre design

Old miracles of the space-age auditorium



WHAT is the best shape for a theatre? Is there any such ideal? The argument gets an extra push this month with the opening of the New Half Moon down the Mile End Road and the reopening (albeit temporary) of the Lyceum just off the Strand, closed as a theatrical venue since John Gielgud's *Hamlet* there in summer, 1939, and used ever since as a gloriously kitsch and seedy palais de danse and rock concert venue.

It is 208 years since the first Lyceum theatre was built at the river end of Bow Street, down from the Royal Opera House and Drury Lane. Madame Tussaud's waxworks opened there in 1802, when the site was more used for circuses and lectures than for the higher drama of Keats, Keble, Grimaldi, Henry Irving, Duse, Bernhard, Diaghilev, and Chablisin who later adorned it.

The present 1904 building by Bertie Crewe, is a monument to Edwardian plush, with plump cupids clinging to the fronts of the boxes, their arms snapped off when the lamps they formerly held were done away with. The gallery is striped of its benches and filly. The dress

circle bar is now a Mecca-baroque ladies' boudoir.

Ironically, the Lyceum is getting its new lease of theatrical life precisely because the stalls have been converted, as wartime Covent Garden was, into a dance floor. Indeed, the Palm Court decoration that masked the golden Royal Opera proscenium then can be seen against the walls of the Lyceum stage today.

When Peter Hall sprang his Cottesloe closure on a distressed nation, Ian Mackintosh of Theatre Projects who suggested to Denis Lasdun the courtyard Georgian theatre structure of the Cottesloe was already looking everywhere for a venue where its most successful show could transfer.

This is Bill Bryden's production of Tony Harrison's medieval *Mysteries*, a promenade show. Mackintosh remembers the shocked "phone-call by which he learnt how the passion was affecting the Cottesloe. "Do you know what they've done to your theatre now? They've taken out all the seats." His caller didn't know that he would be absolutely delighted.

"The reason I like Georgian

theatres," he says, "is that they were community halls as well as theatres. Now that we've escaped from the prosa-cenium arch, we can look back and admire buildings with large forestages that could be used just as well for pony races and circuses as for plays."

Fixed seating, as he points out, is a comparatively late 19th-century innovation. In the days before pensions, old actors on their benefit nights used to pad out the capacity with rows of benches on the back of the stage, indeed one very fat thespian, Quinn, sold so much stage seating that he couldn't in his Falstaff enlargement, squeeze on from the wings himself.

Bryden's promenade *Mysteries* are that kind of theatre. At the Last Judgment, patrons on the wrong side of Christ found themselves being dragged off to the everlasting fires.

Mackintosh needed to find a hall with a capacity of 1,000: in Edinburgh Bryden's production had demonstrated it could speak to that number, three times the Cottesloe capacity. But it's a large number to find in a fringe-type, unconventional venue. The New Half Moon holds a

maximum of 400. The Wide Theatre, at Bracknell, a demonstration of the courtyard principle which Theatre Projects and Mackintosh have been developing through the Cottesloe and the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn, as well as a number of school theatres, holds only 330.

Mackintosh is a manie theatre buff. He knew that the transformation was nothing new for the Lyceum. In 1932 Reinhardt created a medieval cathedral for his *Miracle* in which the soon to be Lady Diana Duff-Cooper portrayed the Virgin Mary.

He also discovered that the theatre was the scene of the first ever promenade concert in 1839. The solution was to treat the Lyceum as if it were a courtyard, and incorporate seating round the balcony floor with the dress circle and boxes.

"We are rediscovering a great part of theatre history buried away in the centre of London, and exploiting Mecca's people's palaces with its bars filling the back of the stalls. (The bars will stay simply lumped in with the rest of the performance.)"

If you read Richard and Helen Leacock's survey of theatre building, Theatre and

Playhouse (Methuen, £6.95), you quickly discover how theatre, like every other kind of culture in the last 100 years, has tried to incorporate every system and every solution from the most and distant past, but the dominant issue is social context, and social objective. Mackintosh says that television has made the distant theatrical figure unacceptable.

The ideal size may be something like the Wyndham's Theatre, with the central space across which the performer must work his magic, no greater than a variable cube of about 30 feet. If there's a problem at the Olivier Theatre, it's because its space is too vast.

The ability to register is what matters for the performer. Perhaps television has an even more insidious effect, he, relieving today's actors of any acute and/or sheer vocal projection. But in small theatres you don't need much voice.

Atmosphere, which is in part an aspect of decor, is harder to pin down. The Wide Theatre is dominated by the intestinal pipes of its air conditioning, where Edwardian aesthetics would have dictated a chandelier.

As at the Cottesloe one remembers metal pipes at the front of the gallery seating and blank walls.

The New Half Moon, before its temporary seating ramps and stage were set up for the opening production this week of Sweeney Todd, felt like a cross between a classical church and a vacant warehouse.

"The idea," says its designer, Florian Beigel, a German architecture teacher at the North London Poly, "is that we have made a scenic street - theatre in the street with a roof over it." When you look again at the windows with their naked concrete lintels piercing the two long concrete-block walls of the rectangular box-shaped space, you get the idea.

There are street-lamps "stuck to the wall at second floor level, and behind the windows are lower and upper corridors from which one can overlook the performances. The short walls are made of ribbed metal, cutting off the section of the "street," the south-facing end containing five windows and allowing a fair amount of natural light. In the centre of each wall are double doors. The doors in the long walls are two storeys high. The ceiling lights are

intended to refer to stars.

There is no stage; the lighting is all fixed on a mobile metal raft so that the focus can be moved anywhere in the space. Similarly there's no fixed seating. The brief was for maximum flexibility within a sturdy, intended cross between a classical church and a vacant warehouse that it's not as flexible as it seems.

"We wanted a space which gives a little experience, so that the audience can be objective and step back from the intensity of the performance."

Beigel says that the New Half Moon, whose building (without theatre equipment) cost £280,000, is as well equipped as the Cottesloe.

If there's a problem in designing theatres of defining the best relationship between actor and audience and the contact of the audience with itself, it's a problem which Beigel's half refuses to face. In effect, every time the seats are realigned the problem will be reconsidered.

ple, a promenade audience will experience the show. But the building could make an exciting place for processions: it would make a marvellous church.

Half Moon started in a synagogue and has been based in a Methodist church for five years. The church is now the hall.

Looking back at the New Half Moon from further down the news site with the loose brick harks of Mile End Road housing all around, one might almost be seeing a high-roofed temple. The great metal doors have a kind of rhetorical majesty. When new, a purpose-built theatre seems to evoke religious resonances, perhaps the dramatic art has come full circle.

Postscript: When the *Mysteries* complete their extraordinary 12-week run at the Lyceum, Mecca will commence their total refurbishment of the building. Peter Hall's *Hamlet* has been the last building have demanded that they restore the building fully to its former magnificence, and when that is done Mecca will get a 125-year lease to use the building as a people's place for dancing and popular culture. Preserved in aspic.

Barbara Yeager and Annie Golden in *Leader Of The Pack*



W. J. Weatherby on a Broadway musical that is too big for its 1960s boots

Da doo wrong wrong...

WITH *DREAMGIRLS* in its last weeks, no replacement has yet been found and so strong new contemporary musical has so far eluded Broadway this season. Frail multi-million dollar productions with more ambition than art have come and quickly departed, and even some more robustly entertaining shows which might have survived off-Broadway in a smaller Village theatre have gone the same way.

The latest new musical is *Leader Of The Pack*. It began as a revue at the small Bottom Line Cabaret Theatre in the Village and should have stayed downtown. Putting on some fat and growing into a 90-minute non-stop feast of early sixties pop songs, it is alleged to be a Broadway-recession days that means an entertainment able to appeal to all-comers from a chance of surviving rough

critical assessments from the New York media. *Leader Of The Pack* does not have wide appeal, and it certainly received decidedly mixed reviews which make a long Broadway life unlikely. Its subject, the life and music of Ellie Greenwich, one of the reigning monarchs of pop in the early sixties, has plenty of songs worth rediscovering, but lacks that essential ingredient of all successful Broadway musicals, a strong book or story line on which to hang all the music and dancing.

It depends on the old American Show business cliché plot - local girl makes good and then success begins to turn bad - but there are no original variations as there were in *Dreamgirls*, for example, and what there is hasn't been developed very deeply.

So the show has to fall back on its songs, with those innocent pre-Vietnam lyrics that

often had delightful, nonsensical wordplays reminiscent of the twenties, including "Da Doo Ron Ron" and "Do Wah Diddy." A gaudy, colourful production includes some remarkable singers and dancers, but above all there is Darleen Love, who was back-up singer for Ellie Greenwich enterprises in the sixties, with such groups as the Crystals, the Blossoms and Bob B Soxx and the Bluejeans.

The high point comes with her singing of "River Deep Mountain High," which was written for her but is usually associated with Tina Turner, also enjoying a great comeback. Ms Love's rendition is more low key, more off-Broadway than Tina Turner's which is much more in current Broadway style.

The appearance of Ellie Greenwich herself is obviously intended as the climax, but it further underlines the personal intimacy of this alleged musical and would be very effective in a small Village theatre where intimacy can be appreciated.

Ms Greenwich should have refused to let her *Pack* travel beyond the boundaries of the Village, whose name she shares, until a much more ambitious musical like those other sixties hits, *Hair* and *Grease*, was developed from her life and work.

Hard times, Act three

WHEN half the Arts Council Drama Panel resigned in February one main issue involved was a drastic 40 per cent drop in the commissioning of new plays over and above the impact caused by the depression of the Council's general subsidy level. Yet for nearly two years Arts Council officers have been resisting proposals from their advisory theatre writing sub-committee to stop the rot, which had already begun in 1981.

That year a new method was adopted to fund new writing. Previously theatre companies had put up half the money for each new play out of their own budget from the council on a play-by-play basis. In 1981 responsibility for new playwrighting was "devolved" to the companies themselves.

For the first transitional

year theatres put in estimates for their whole year's new play activity and received an annual, matching sum, from the council. Today, funds are not allocated separately but simply lumped in with the whole annual grant.

The result is that actual expenditure on new plays has been consistently lower than estimates. Not only that, but for 1984-85 even the estimates were lower than the previous year. The reality, the general squeeze on theatres' resources has meant that a large proportion of money originally intended for playwrights has been "creatively accounted" into other areas - the leaky roof, the rewiring, even no doubt the Chancellor's Vat.

Meanwhile the marginal improvement reflected during the seventies in playwright working conditions has been reversed. A survey completed

by the Theatre Writers Union in the second year of "devolution" showed that even playwrights like Roy Robinson - much-produced in the North and Midlands - need to write five plays a year (more than twice the average output) in order to earn the £2,500-£3,000 expected for a mere 60 minutes on television.

David Rudkin and Steve Gooch, both of whom have more than 15 produced plays behind them including some with the RSC, have no better. Peter Flannery, another RSC-produced writer, was offered just £1,000 for a play in the last year. David Cregan, whose earliest work was produced 20 years ago at the Royal Court, but who now works mainly for radio and TV, was offered £700 as down payment with subsidised theatres.

Others, like Sheila Yeager and Nick Darke, another RSC and Royal Court playwright, simply acknowledge that the theatre has all but stopped. "I've got to work," says Yeager, "though Sheila did have a play optioned and produced in the south-west for a risible £750."

Disliked and mistrusted by playwrights when it was first introduced, and a total failure in operation, the present system has now been opposed by not only the writers' unions but also the Theatre Managers Association. And last year the Drama Panel voted unanimously for a return to the system of "matching" funding. There are many advantages to such a return. In the first place, theatre companies would have to commit themselves to a specific sum for new writing to which they could later be held.

Olw n Wymark on faults in funding new plays

the extra accounting involved is hardly likely to cause many more headaches than the extra monitoring which is as far as Arts Council officers are prepared to go at present. Meanwhile, in a true spirit of democracy, they have sought their advisors' committees' proposals tooth-and-nail, in spite of the overwhelming support for them from the profession.

Even another argument defeated, the officers now claim that the administrative cost of returning to the 1980/81 system would be prohibitive. Yet not only has it been operated before, but their own figures indicate a sum lost to new playwrighting equivalent to half-a-dozen annual salaries. Even one whole year's salary would be a small price to pay in order to preserve the vigour of British theatre and the international regard in which British playwrighting is held.

BRIEFING

THEATRE

THE Palace, Watford, offers Bernard Farrell's *I Do Not Like Thee Dr Fell*, a new Irish comedy about a group therapy session, featuring Mike Grady. Euripides' *Medea* arrives at the Almeida from the Leeds Festival. Haymarket Studio in a Nancy Meckler production. Brighton Festival gets under way with performances linked by the idea of the "leisured" Haymarket. Studio in a Nancy Meckler production. Brighton Festival gets under way with performances linked by the idea of the "leisured" Haymarket. Studio in a Nancy Meckler production. Brighton Festival gets under way with performances linked by the idea of the "leisured" Haymarket.

Recommended Martine Gytellon: Tuesday to Thursday; Peter Hall's exact production of Jean-Jacques Bernard's *Hardyboogie* story of a ruined country girl; Wendy Morgan very good as the inarticulate heroine. Old Times (Haymarket): Pinter power-games amongst an erotic threesome; Michael Gambon and Liv Ullmann battle it out while Nicola Pagett smiles secretly. Michael Billington

OPERA

Bevenuto Cellini kicks off the Brighton Festival (at the dome tonight, Monday, Wednesday) with New Sussex Opera in sharp profile. Bryan Balkin conducts, and the new production is by Peter Ebert. David Johnston takes the title role on stage for the first time, and the cast also includes Dennis Wicks, Anne Mason, Louise Kennedy, In Arthur Jacobs' English. Orlando (Glasgow Wednesday, tomorrow week) the latest of many Handels marking the tercentenary. Scottish Opera have Christopher Fettes producing opera for the first

time, with designs by Antony McDonald, choreography by Ian Spink. James Bowman takes the title role, Lillian Watson, Timothy Wilson and Stephen Varcoe in support, conducted by Richard Hickox. The Emperor of Atlantis (Imperial War Museum Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) is a suitably evocative way of marking V2-day. Viktor Ullmann and Peter Klein's one act chamber opera was written in 1943 in Theresienstadt but not premiered until 1977 at the Holland Festival. Not only was the show banned, but its perpetrators were "disposed" of in



James Cairns - Coliseum

Auschwitz, Michael Granbarr conducts, Nicholas Till produces and the cast includes Stuart Harling, John Rath, Christopher Gillett and Maria Jagusz. Recommended Madam Butterfly (Coliseum, Thursday). Graham Vick's astonishing production was the hit of the early part of the season, with James Cairns memorable as Cio-Cio-San, and John Mancini conducting marvellously. Now Rowland Sidwell is Pinkerton. Tom Sutcliffe

DANCE

SADLER'S Wells Royal Ballet brings its dramatically powerful *Swan Lake* back to Covent Garden tonight.

Evelyn Hart from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Henny Janssens from the Dutch National Ballet, dance the leading roles. On Monday there will be two performances of Peter Wright's *Sleeping Beauty*; Hart and Janssens will lead the matinee and evening performances. Next Thursday the programme changes to a triple bill with David Bintley in the title role, and Bintley's own ballet *Chores* (last time at the ROH). Ballet Rambert next week are at the Theatre Royal as part of the Brighton Festival. Richard Alston's new *Dangerous Liaisons* is on Monday until Wednesday (Rainbow Pupples now replaces the *Sleeping Beauty*) and on Thursday will be the first performance of Robert North's *Light and Shade*, to Stravinsky.

London Contemporary Dance theatre next week are at the Grand Theatre, Swansea; Scottish Ballet will be at the Empire Theatre, Liverpool, with Peter Darrell's *Swan Lake*.

Mary Clarke

JAZZ

Archie Shepp, tenor sax, begins a short tour at Sheffield University's Octagon Centre on Saturday, then to the Cnb, Oxford Street (Sunday), and Brighton (Monday), and Cheltenham (Wednesday) and Northampton (Thursday). Dewey Redman, another tenorist, formerly of the Keith Jarrett Quartet, plays Edinburgh (10th), Glasgow (11th), Birmingham (12th), Leeds (13th), and finally Newcastle (14th) as part of the Jazz Sounds '85 Festival (0632-323421). Enthusiasts gather at the Birch Hall Hotel, Oldham (May 24-25) for the Ellington '85 Conference featuring clarinetist Jimmy Hamilton and trumpeter Willie Cook, former Ellington stars. Details: 92 Radfield Street, Oldham OL8 3RE. Pete Martin

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Are sanctions a symbol or a policy?

President Reagan's abruptly proclaimed trade embargo against Nicaragua has naturally been criticised as likely to push the democratically elected Marxist government further towards Moscow and is, in any case, hardly the most tactful way to start an economic summit about freeing world trade. Sir Geoffrey Purses his lips. Mr Denis Healey sees it as "an act of revenge" against the US Congress' refusal to grant any more money to finance terrorism.

But the more immediate question, of course, is: will it work? US officials may predict that it will put the troubled Nicaraguan economy on its uppers, but it is difficult to find evidence to support this. Mr Wayne Smith, an academic and former diplomat who helped to establish the US trade embargo against Cuba 25 years ago, commented this week: "It didn't work then and it won't work now. In the long run they will find alternative outlets for their exports and will get their imports elsewhere too."

This is certainly what happened during the 15 year British embargo against the rebel white regime in Rhodesia, which may help to explain why Mrs Thatcher is not rushing to support the President this time. Far from bringing Rhodesia to its knees (as the politicians had predicted) sanctions were breached on a wide scale and the economy made giant strides towards self-sufficiency. Statistics published afterwards showed that in only one year there was a balance of payments deficit (1965) and during the last five years of the rebellion the surplus averaged £100 million, or ten times the pre-UDI years. And that was an embargo, supposedly being applied by the United Nations.

Nor does the US experience of trying to stop the pick of Silicon Valley's microchips finding its way to the Soviet Union show much more success. As Mr Richard Perle, assistant US Secretary of Defence laments, the USSR manages—through a chain of front organisations throughout the world—to snap up the latest American chips and

apply them to defence quicker than the US military (which is subject to bureaucratic bidding procedures and Congressional voting) is able to.

If landlocked Rhodesia runs rings around the United Nations, what chance has the US of imposing its will on the isthmus of Nicaragua, whose business with the US has fallen to only 15 per cent of its total foreign trade? It is true that Nicaragua depends on America for supplies of critical spare parts for capital plant like oil refineries. Also, its main exports — bananas, shellfish and fresh meat — are perishable. And it has big debts and little cash. But it is difficult to believe that alternative markets will not emerge, even if they push the country into even greater dependence on the Soviet bloc.

It is difficult to see President Reagan's move as anything other than an ill conceived move taken out of pique following the failure of his attempt to persuade Congress to vote \$14 million in "humanitarian" assistance to the rebel forces. A trade embargo, unlike financial assistance, does not require Congressional approval. The US has also abrogated a 27-year old friendship treaty with its Central American neighbour. Ironically the embargo will worsen the already huge US trade deficit, since the Sandinista government actually runs a trade surplus with the US, and it will also put still more pressure on Nicaragua's already hard pressed private sector.

This is flailing, flailing stuff: and illogical to boot. Washington won't apply the pressure (a very different pressure) of sanctions to South Africa, but seeks to throttle Managua. Mr Reagan may be angry with those critics who say he's lost his grip. But where, pray, is the evidence of that mastery of events?

Bombs on the beach

Commonsense says that when two small bombs go off in the middle of the night on Spanish beaches there is no need for anyone to put their holiday plans into reverse. In the soulless world of statistical risk calculation, the chances are infinitesimal that any particular one of Spain's expected 43 million foreign visitors this year will have things ruined by either an ETA bomber or a holiday resort mugger. But the

fear of risk and the chances of risk just do not always fit together in that nice tidy way. Tell old ladies that they run relatively little danger of being attacked on the street and they will tell you that you do not live in the real world. Tell the average person in Britain that they have a statistical chance of being assaulted once in 100 years (which is what the British Crime Survey concluded) and they will dismiss you as a naive academic. In all these situations, it is the scare factor that counts. Whether the Spanish tourist industry now faces a run of cancelled bookings is hard to judge. Spain is by no means the only place in the world, sadly, where terrorism has punctured the easy rituals of everyday life. Britain, after all, has suffered regular bombings in its public transport, in tourist attracting places like the Tower of London, Regent's Park and the Oxford Street stores. But the foreign visitors keep on coming in their millions. The lure of the exchange rate far outweighs the risk of mutilation by the IRA. Last year, in the wake of the Harrods bomb and the Libyan embassy siege, 11 per cent more tourists came here than in 1983. If they are put off from coming, according to a new survey of German attitudes to visiting Britain, it is overwhelmingly the weather, the prices and the food that are the most potent deterrents. Political factors, the risk of crime, the threat of terrorism count for nothing, the survey found. Nor is it only British tourism that can take it. Athens (and even its airport) has had more than its recent share of bombings and shootings. Yet Greece, thanks to the cheapness of the drachma, is poised for a tourism bonanza in 1985.

Spanish tourism too is likely to survive. But the beach bombs this week in Benidorm and Valencia will have disturbed more than just the sand. The difference about what is happening in Spain is that it is aimed directly at the tourist trade. Mass tourism has not merely transformed the appearance of Spain. It has lifted the country's economy out of poverty into prosperity. So any terrorist group which wants to find a new lever to put pressure on the Madrid government is making unpleasantly shrewd calculation in choosing tourism as a target. All the more so when the price increases of up to 20 per cent on Spanish holidays this year compare so unfavourably with the relative standstill in the cost of going to Portugal, Yugoslavia or Greece. Spain's previous hold on as much as 50 per

cent of the British overseas holiday market was already under threat from the price increases. The bombs will shake that grip still further. So while the tourists can afford to go elsewhere, the Spanish economy cannot afford to let them. That is why the Spanish authorities have quickly drafted in extra police to the coastal resorts. The bomb threat to life on the Costa Blanca may be relatively small. But the threat to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's buoyant and bounding vision of an economically competitive Spain is real enough.

Blasts on the hustings

Greece holds its premature general election on June 2, and it is already the bitterest contest since the restoration of democracy in 1974. The dubious circumstances under which President Karamanlis was removed from office (and the more dubious circumstances under which he was replaced by a pro-Government nominee, Judge Christos Saratzakis) have ensured a ferocious fight. The official Opposition party, New Democracy, still refuses to recognise the legitimacy of the switch. One of the first tasks of a New Democracy government, if one emerges this summer, will be to attempt to purge President Saratzakis, thus ensuring another constitutional crisis. The removal of Karamanlis has focused attention upon the style of the Pasok (socialist) government led by Dr Andreas Papandreu, and renewed fears about his ultimate aims. There is, undoubtedly, an impulsive unpredictability and a periodic ruthlessness about the Pasok house style. There is also an extremism of rhetoric which mildly annoys the European allies but manifestly angers and alarms the United States. That rhetorical extremism was, however, diluted for the past four years by the reassuring signals sent forth from a conservative president, apparently working in harmony with his prime minister. Now the signals suggest that a second term Papandreu government would find such checks and balances intolerable.

Just how much those signals will be worth to Pasok's enemies come polling day remains to be seen. But almost half of those who voted socialist in 1981 moved towards Dr Papandreu's party from the centre. Without them he cannot survive. If

they now suspect a period of unbridled Marxism at home and neutralism abroad they could peel off to New Democracy. It is a conservative party with a recently elected leader, Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, a former Liberal who is determined to shift his new party towards the centre.

But the voters will not only be judging the events of the past two months. They will be judging the record of the most militantly leftwing government in Nato. In doing so they will be measuring it against the one-word slogan "Change." For Greece the demand for change remains a complex thing. It embraces economic modernisation, social reform and an overwhelming desire for a government not beholden to any outsiders and which will stand up firmly for the perceived national interest. It is on the economic front that the government looks most vulnerable — if only to the high expectations it engendered. Inflation is marginally down on the 24 per cent annual rate inherited from New Democracy, yet unemployment is up. The Ministry of National Economy has not produced a convincing national plan although its flirtation with biotechnology and other 21st century wonders will, if it pays off at all, pay off big. The attempt to seek trade and investment from the Arab world (including Libya) and from the Soviet bloc is medium term stuff. But EEC membership has produced a prosperous, duly grateful peasantry. Yet the urban proletariat, with newly freed unions, is distinctively restive.

Socially, the government has a respectable record. Educational opportunities have improved. Health and pension provisions are better and women's rights, from civil marriage and divorce, through property rights to abortion look a sight more clarified. The swing issue is international opinion and internal opinion diverge dramatically. When Papandreu tweaks the Turkish nose or cuts up rough with his Nato allies, the West is inclined to feel that he is playing the odd man out, to no particular purpose. (That is the interpretation New Democracy is selling.) But many Greeks feel that their country has been an unwarranted acquiescent ally for half a century. Papandreu's foreign policy may not have achieved much. But, at least, it has demonstrated that you don't have Greece to push around any more. If that feeling remains strong, then Papandreu will gain his second term in spite of the growing worries about where he is going and why.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State education on the brink of a major degeneration

Sir—I was rather disappointed to hear Mrs Shirley Williams's reaction to the current teachers' dispute.

I understand her support for the control of inflation and I understand her desire to appear to be dispassionate and independent in tackling difficult problems. I was surprised that she did not lend more weight to the clear justice of the teachers' case.

Does she really believe that teachers, and of course, certain other groups in the public sector, should be the only ones to accept great sacrifice in order to contain inflation? Does she not understand just how low morale is sinking in the profession?

In 20 years, I have never seen such conviction amongst colleagues that the squeeze on state education has gone too far. I know of no colleague who will recommend teaching as a career. We have to be on the brink of major degeneration if nothing is done. Clear progress has to be made, and made this year, towards adequate recognition of the essential contribution which state education makes to the health and wealth of the nation.

I do not understand why we have to pay for a restructuring package by suffering more than a 30 per cent salary cut first while at the same time having to work harder to achieve the goals of a secretary of state who appears not to have the slightest idea of what constitutes adequate resources. It is not going to work. Teaching is done. Clear progress has to be made, and made this year, towards adequate recognition of the essential contribution which state education makes to the health and wealth of the nation.

I have understood Mrs Williams correctly. She would have us accept 6 per cent now, which would effectively be a pay cut since inflation is slightly above this. Also, with this figure, we would also back even further in relation to all non-manual employees. We would then achieve the slow climb back to respectability through a structure package.

I do not understand why we have to pay for a restructuring package by suffering more than a 30 per cent salary cut first while at the same time having to work harder to achieve the goals of a secretary of state who appears not to have the slightest idea of what constitutes adequate resources. It is not going to work. Teaching is done. Clear progress has to be made, and made this year, towards adequate recognition of the essential contribution which state education makes to the health and wealth of the nation.

What on earth is wrong with restoring salary levels to those set by a perfectly respectable, government-appointed body over ten years ago? Then if government needs teachers to accept changed conditions of service, it should be prepared to pay for it. If such a development holds all the prospects for improvement that government suggests, then it should be only too happy to pay.

With falling rolls in schools, government should be able to look at state education and say: "On good—let us improve the service without any real increase in cost. We can begin to pay teachers properly and begin to reduce pupil-teacher ratios so that they are similar to those enjoyed in private education. Instead, government rubs its hands and holds back the cash so that

it can give handouts to people who do not need them."

Will not Mrs Williams set herself against this latter course? Yours faithfully, Robert Brown, Stevens, Herts.

Sir—As a teacher, I entirely agree with Sir Keith Joseph's remarks (April 29).

I am mad: mad that after six years' full-time training and years of experience a teacher earns the same as an 18-year-old recruit to the Metropolitan Police Force. I am mad that a teacher with four children is now eligible for free school meals for those children and entitled to claim supplementary benefits. I am mad that young well-qualified teachers are leaving the service disillusioned and bitter.

Secondly, I agree with Sir Keith that an unprofessional status, in public esteem, status, resources, and salary I am not treated as are

other professions: therefore I must be unprofessional.

Finally, together with my colleagues, I am causing the maximum disruption to pupils at the minimum cost to myself. I have not spoken to one teacher who has not searched his conscience before taking action, even rejecting possibly the most effective weapon: disrupting examinations.

Much as we sincerely regret the effect on pupils as I understand it, the aim of any industrial action is to achieve maximum effect at minimum cost. Still, perhaps I am mistaken: an oranutan does not rate high on understanding, especially when he's mad.—Yours P. W. Flint, Doncaster.

Sir—Sir Keith Joseph's statement, released by the Conservative Central Office (April 29), leads me to make the following observations. In attempting to retrieve a wage level, nationally ac-

cepted as having fallen way behind others in recent years, to say nothing of declining career prospects, teachers are now considered "immoral" and "mean." Also we learn that the teachers pay dispute is now "tied in" with restoring the nations trading competitiveness.

Strong stuff from a government moral enough to turn its back on 84 million unemployed and whose restrictive policies have encouraged high unit costs and poor trading performances through firms working at under capacity in half empty factories.

However, being a "mad" teacher could be forgiven for thinking that investment in education should be a prerequisite for good economic performance rather than a result of it. — Yours Carl Nightingale, Brook School, Richmond Road, Sheffield 13.

The double error in the mass that never was

Sir—It is being stressed that very few people, except on the Celtic fringe, have objected to the proposed mass for the Prince and Princess of Wales. There would have been very many more had they known what was going on. How could we object when the mass was organised under strictest secrecy?

It was in principle wrong to arrange something which the constitution forbids, but the error is compounded when it is cloaked in secrecy.

We are glad that the Queen saw fit to step in and prevent the mass taking place. Whatever embarrassment may have been caused by its cancellation the consequences would have been far worse had the matter got out after the event.

There are many who value our Protestant heritage in this country and are wholly committed to maintaining it, not least because it affords spiritual liberty from priestly power which the mass itself epitomises. (Rev Dr) David N. Samuel, London SE 11.

Sir—Your report about Prince Charles and the Pope completely misses the point. The mass was cancelled. It has very little to do with appeasing Protestant extremists.

The vast majority of people in this country, outside the poor priestly victims in Northern Ireland, no longer accept the dangerous and divisive, supernatural doctrines and dogmas of the Catholic Christian religion that was officially formulated.

Malawi's breadwinning women

Sir—In his article on Dr Hastings Banda (April 19) Terry Coleman comments that Malawi is one of the few African countries that not only feed itself but exports food as well.

While I have no love for Dr Banda I feel that it is important for us to realise why this is so. The reason is quite simple: alone among African leaders he has perceived a truth that eludes most of the "development experts."

In most of east, central and southern Africa it is the women who are the food producers. While most extension agents concentrate on men and their themselves men, who in the main cannot speak to the women, it is the women who are the ones

listed at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325—Roman and Anglican.

These people would not take at all kindly to seeing their "populace" being made to grovel at the feet of a priest of any religious sect.

This is the exciting, scientific age of reason and the general public are sick and tired of the antics of the priests and their victims throughout the world. Michael Ball, Bristol.

Sir—The news that the Queen recommended that her son and his wife decline the Pope's invitation to mass remains as one more of the anachronistic discrimination of the British monarchy. Few probably remember that no one ever prohibited the young Queen Elizabeth from attending the Orange lodges of Northern Ireland in the 1950s.

In fact the entire range of incidents, from the vetting of Prince Charles's possible brides-to-be to the forced "abdication" of Michael of Kent, show that Roman Catholics are the only religious minority in this country against whom there is statutory discrimination. This is a typically British sort of eccentricity upheld by the likes of Basil Fume who ought to be campaigning for its removal and suppression. So long as no member of the royal family is permitted to marry a Catholic it will be perceived as bigoted and out-of-date.—Yours Charles J. Doyle, Witham, Essex.

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A COUNTRY. DIARY

NORTHUMBERLAND: Living in the valley of the Washburn, I went to the river in its source yesterday and spent a morning with the warden of Sweethope lough. This is a lovely stretch of water situated in a conifer wood but on the moors below the beeting Wansie crags. The house and the dam at Sweethope were built in 1830 but the lower dam dates from 1730 and originally had a mill. The bobbled about in a boat in the middle of the lough alongside one of the small islands, admiring two Canada geese sitting on their nests. Their partners honked up the moors beside us and the noise, although strident, was much more musical than the basic honking of the greylag geese. Canada geese are down to about twenty now at Sweethope, but this fluctuates as the birds do commute between lakes at Hallington, Capheaton and Kielder. Two goldeneye ducks glided stiffly past, and several mute swans planned dramatically across the water at intervals to remind us of their presence. Leaving the Canadas' nursery quarters we chugged up the lough to the island at the west end where the warden showed me the pair of great crested grebe there. He told me that their nuptial displays had been spectacular, and I was thrilled to see them entwining necks momentarily and then presenting pieces of wood to one another. We kept about 70 yards away and watched them through our binoculars. I will visit them again because the warden's wife told me that the baby the grebe pair produced last spring, was an adorable one—just like a little striped hummingbird. The short-eared owls, which are winter visitors to the heather above the lough, have increased in number this winter, which was the good news. The bad news was that the warden had picked up a dead mink by the water's edge the previous week.

VERONICA BEATH

Crimes that dare not speak their name

Sir—We were surprised to read your headline (April 29) claiming that the number of sex offences is falling, but less surprised when we found that you were referring to police figures.

The number of so-called sex offences investigated by the police may well be falling, but it is well established now that rape, indecent assault and similar offences are underreported crimes.

Of the women who contact us, only about a quarter have reported to the police, and this figure is pretty standard among rape crisis lines.

There has been a lot of publicity over the last couple of years about the bad experiences which some women have had on reporting crimes of sexual violence and this may well have deterred even more women from reporting, thus giving an apparent drop in the number of offences. I do not think any of us can really be surprised, even whether these offences are increasing or decreasing, as so many women don't feel able to tell anyone at all, let alone ring a rape crisis line or go to the police.

It's hardly surprising that fewer than one out of 150



offences recorded by the police was a sex offence. No matter how sympathetic the police officers may be, it is always going to be a lot more traumatic to go to the police after you've been raped than it would be if you'd had your car stolen.

We are contacted by more and more women and girls and I'm sure that all rape crisis lines, incest survivors' groups and women's aid refuges are finding this too. This may be because we are becoming better known or because it is becoming very slightly easier for women to talk about what men have done to them, but even so, it seems unlikely that sexual attacks are actually getting less common.

Miscellany at large

Sir—Your article on Rutland in *Travel Guardian* (April 27) was enjoyable, but I am at a loss to understand why you used two photographs of Oundle to illustrate the piece. Rutland Water is very photogenic and there are some attractive villages nearby, such as Eton and Empingham. Rutland Water is in the Oundle-Donington Division of Anglian Water, but Oundle is in the county of Northamptonshire.—Yours sincerely, D. A. Brown, Sawtry, Cambs.

Sir—I can understand companies like Commercial Union, General Accident and Norwich Union hedging their bets by making donations to

the Alliance parties (*Guardian* May 1), but why the massive gift to the Liberals from the British School of Motoring? Is it in the belief that middle of the road policies will require us to take more driving lessons?—Yours, Dietmar Kuchemann, Wandsworth, London SW18.

Sir—W.A. reference to your articles about the Palestinian attacks on Christian villages. The PLO categorically denies any involvement in these matters. Our presence in Lebanon is defending our refugee camps against the Israeli surrogate troops of Anton Lahad, and I would refer

you to the statement by the Prime Minister of Lebanon. Mr Rashid Kharami two days ago, in which he stated that the PLO has nothing to do with the situation in Lebanon and is in no way involved.—Yours faithfully, Fayal Aoudia, PLO Representative, London.

Sir—"Flocinaucinilipiliplification" (29 letters) the longest word in the English language? (Letter May 1) Oh no, it's not. "Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanopneumonia" (45 letters) surely takes the prize.—Yours faithfully, Jacqueline Jones, Teddington, Middlesex.

Sparing the Nicaraguan child

Sir—What a contrast exists between the picture of Nicaragua which people listening to Reagan's rhetoric get and the picture received by those with any knowledge about the country's priorities.

What many of us see is a country working hard to improve the living standards of its people. For example, the Ministry of Health has pursued a successful child health programme and managed to eradicate polio in the last few years. The items on the department's list of priority medicines are those

for specific use in child health.

In response to these priorities the Clapham Group for Medical Supplies to Nicaragua is one of a number of groups in Britain raising funds for essential medicines for the Nicaraguan people. Projects for long term health programme are particularly important at this time now that resources have had to be diverted to emergency treatment. Patti Walsworth, Clapham Group for Medical Supplies to Nicaragua, London SW4.

DIARY

THERE is no more loyal supporter of our Ken than Ken's mum, Ethel, who is 70 next Tuesday. Now Ethel was down in London at the weekend anxious for news of the Brent selection conference. Trouble is, she was staying with her brother, Ken Kennard, and Ken K is a fervent Tory and starts frothing at the mouth when he hears his nephew mentioned.

So Ethel devises a plan. She pretends she's going to bed, gets into her nightie and dressing gown and goes upstairs to bed. Night night, Ken, she says, so Ken K decides to turn in, too. The moment she hears her brother's door shut Ethel's downstairs like a shot and tuned into the radio. You won't hear a sweeter story this year.

A MODEL of Mrs T in Dublin's workroom museum has been attacked by intruders. They plunged a sword through her chest and chopped off her nose and mouth. No political malice, though. They went for Patrick Pearse and James Connolly, too.

THE Washington Post has been indulging once more in its favourite pastime of hunting for intellectual skeletons. The latest target is the Reagan administration's latest middle-ranking appointment, Ms Marianne Mele Hall as Chairman of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal. In particular, attention is focused on her 1982 book, *Foundations of Sand*, which states that "the American insistence on preserving their jungle freedoms, their women, their avoidance of personal responsibility and their abhorrence of the work ethic." It follows that race problems arise, says the book, "when you displace the jungle-freedom types in the Scotland-type environment which is America."

Does she believe this stuff? "I want the Post," she told the *Post*. "I edited that work. Period." In the sense of shortwiter, no research, no writing, clearly editing. So why is she billed on the front as "co-author"? "If I wash a floor well," she says, "I'll take credit."

LORD Longford: "My own wife, as some people know, had a lot of children — eight if I remember rightly." (Hansard, May 1, Col 251)

A DOZEN or so members of Leicester CND visited Alconbury USAF base on Wednesday intent on climbing the perimeter fence dressed as rabbits. They parked near a group of camera-toting plane-spotters, whipped out their carpet, laid it over the barbed wire and were just about to scale the fence when, as a man, all the plane-spotters downed their cameras and pounced.

Just their luck to have chosen to coincide with the outing to Alconbury of a group of off-duty keen Metropolitan Police plane-spotters. Two arrests. Very pleased, the policemen were. Wondered aloud in the van to the local nick whether they could claim overtime.

SADLY, previous engagements prevented me from attending last night's third anniversary party of the sinking of the *Belgrano* held by some undergrads at Selwyn College, Cambridge. The party invite to the beams in the college gardens beckons guests to get "totally exclusionarily rowed." The time? From 17.00 (Capever nights prey) to 20.00 (first torpedo sunk). Don't you want to be young again?

ANOTHER front in the relentless war against the BBC has been opened up. The Tories in Scotland are outraged at derogatory remarks alleged to have been during a phone-in programme about the vexed issue of Scottish rates on BBC Radio Scotland on Wednesday evening. Mr Younger declined to take part in the programme since he proposed to announce new measures at the forthcoming Scottish Tory Conference. So angered were Mr Y and his aides that there have been dark mutterings about withholding BBC passes to the Tory conference.

THE real explanation being offered for the Bittburg co-opted in the most select Washington circles is, as it always is, the most obvious. It is simply this: when Mr President's adviser, Mr Michael Deaver originally visited Bittburg cemetery it was covered in snow.

Alan Rusbridger

The liberty man takes his leave

"When I see leader articles in the Mail and Express in support of me, I spit on them. I don't want them as friends," says Larry Gostin. This is yet another strong statement from the small, quiet American unbothered by his emotions in his first interview since deciding to resign as General Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties.

For the first time in his 18-month tenure, he has spelled out his own political views and given his version of the row that has split the NCCL. "It's been the hardest, most difficult thing that ever happened to me, or ever will. This is the first chance to actually say what I think."

He decided to resign on Tuesday night, two days before the NCCL's executive committee meeting — in the belief that it was unrealistic and improper to expect them to oppose decisions taken at last Sunday's annual meeting, which loudly repudiated his vision of a politically even-handed organisation.

"I don't regard this as a defeat," he said. "I hope that it's going to be the beginning of something. A lot of people are telling NCCL that they have to stop and think. I just can't believe that after this it will be business as normal."

He believes that he could only continue as general secretary if he publicly endorsed the AGM and executive. "That would be weakening the organisation and I couldn't look at myself in the mirror if I did that." He had not been pushed out by the executive. The chairman had asked him to stay. "It's another fairly mischievous piece of speculation that's been going on for some time. The executive has been extremely supportive throughout." Nor, he maintained, had he or his supporters been gumming for the Left.

"I've never said this to anybody before because I thought it was inappropriate to do so at NCCL. But I am of the Fabian Left, a close friend and ally of the Left. I was against the left-wing and I wasn't trying to have a war of attrition with them. I was only trying to explain that the NCCL cannot be a creature of the Left."

"NCCL has to be prepared to defend civil liberties irrespective of the political context in which they arise. It will never become as great as it should unless it can recognise that."

Gostin, 36, has disassociated himself from moves to set up an alternative body.



There's only space for one civil liberties organisation and NCCL has a proven record. I will go on fighting as a member.

The saga had begun in March last year when a member of staff, seeking to impress a reporter with NCCL's even-handedness during the miners' strike, revealed that advice had been given to the National Front on two recent occasions.

According to Gostin, every previous General Secretary had sanctioned the bare minimum of advice to the National Front and racist individuals. But the resulting headlines had prompted an

emergency motion and instructions from the executive about "no-go areas." Gostin had to turn cases away.

"For example, I turned down the case of a transsexual who claimed that she was discriminated against by the DHSS in receiving benefits. It was discovered that she had been a member of a fascist organisation and we refused aid. It later transpired that she had dissociated herself from her previously racist views, and I then felt the proper thing to do was to give her advice."

"That was how it began. It wasn't an attempt to shift NCCL policy or provoke it

in any way, but to defend it."

He claims that even before his appointment the executive had agreed to aim for a more broad-based policy. He had emphasised that aspect in his first press conference. Would it not have been more pragmatic to have emulated his predecessor, Patricia Hewitt, an openly avowed Leftwinger whose advice to the National Front had not evinced one murmur of protest? He fully supported Patricia Hewitt and Harriet Harman, he said, but everyone was different.

"I think you have to play it straight. I would have

NCCL General Secretary Larry Gostin goes but, he tells Stuart Wavell, the fight for reform continues

Gostin: "This is the first chance to actually say what I think." Picture by Frank Martin

loved to say, 'I'm one of you, trust me', many, many times. But if you let the Left know that you're their buddy, then you have to let the middle and the Right know that you are not their buddy. To me, the real Left doesn't always have to defend the interests of trade unions. There are things that Liberals and some Conservatives do that are just as radical as Labour and the Left."

He believes, nevertheless, that NCCL's primary function should be to defend trade union rights in the present repressive climate. To be frank, the political Right in this country have a disgraceful record on civil liberties, an absolutely disgraceful record, particularly under Thatcher.

But attached to this was his caveat about non-strikers' rights which was shot down in flames at the weekend. Gostin served with distinction for eight years as legal director of MIND, where he was credited with bringing about the first major piece of mental health legislation in 20 years. There he worked with members of all parties attacking Cohn and Nupe policies with impunity. But at NCCL hadn't he underestimated the built-in trade union bias and the depth of British tribal hostilities?

He says that trade union funding — a quarter when lumped together with GLC aid — had never been a serious factor. If withdrawn, it could have been replaced from other sources. As for dividing tribal hostilities he was neither a genius nor an ignoramus.

"If I made a mistake, it was the same that a British person would have done. Instead of bobbing on the water and having lots of people like you, to stand up and fight for something and ultimately lose your job for it, may be that was a mistake. I knew it would be hard, but for the sake of NCCL which I love so much I wasn't prepared to let it neuter itself. I just wasn't going to have any part of it."

Asked to name his greatest achievement at NCCL, he says it was to continue in the radical tradition of his predecessors. He is proud that the council had secured more amendments than anyone to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, the Data Protection Bill, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and currently the Interception of Communications Bill.

What of his future? "I don't know really what I'll do. I just want to consider the position."

A lesson in how not to build bridges JOHN TORODE sits in on the talks in Ankara

MR TURGUT OZAL, the Turkish prime minister last week discussed with visiting parliamentarians — in Ankara to study the country's cautious moves towards democracy — the large number of development contracts and joint ventures now on offer.

Topping his list was the controversial second Bosphorus Bridge. He indicated his preference for the Japanese-Turkish consortium on the stated grounds that it was the cheapest deal on offer. The Japanese MP's very senior people nodded politely. Mr Ozal ended his remarks on the economy with a specific indication of

his country's desire to do business with Japan and with China. The very senior Chinese politician and his aides nodded politely and smiled.

The meeting took place round the cabinet table which is, apparently, a mark of the status given the occasion. Present throughout the discussions were a handful of foreign journalists invited to Turkey to cover the meeting and to attend the celebrations marking the establishment of the Ataturk of the Turkish national assembly. This in turn was an indication of the seriousness with which the Turkish government took the event in

public relations terms.

To put it crudely, Turkey was seeking international recognition for its controlled return to at least a "guided" democracy after a period of military rule. That is why the members of assorted parliaments initially played it carefully when the invitations came up. Some of the more social democratic north European nations decided not to attend. They saw the continuing ban imposed upon political activities by the nation's two major politicians, Bulent Ecevit and Suleyman Demirel, as totally unacceptable. It called into question the legitimacy of the Ozal government.

In addition, human rights violations and the continuation of martial law in almost one third of the country's provinces disturb many nations and, last week, denied Turkey the presidency of the Council of Europe.

A visit to the Aegean and tours of Pergamum and Ephesus, fell to the most junior Tory MP on the committee, Neil Hamilton.

With all due respect to Mr Hamilton, sending a backbencher with only 18 months experience of the House and a somewhat idiosyncratic Rightwing reputation, was hardly an overwhelming vote of confidence in the new Turkish regime.

Mr Hamilton was I understand given the standard Foreign Office briefing before he set out. In which case he was told the following: Turkey is making genuine efforts to return to democratic rule and Her

Majesty's Government looks with sympathy upon those efforts.

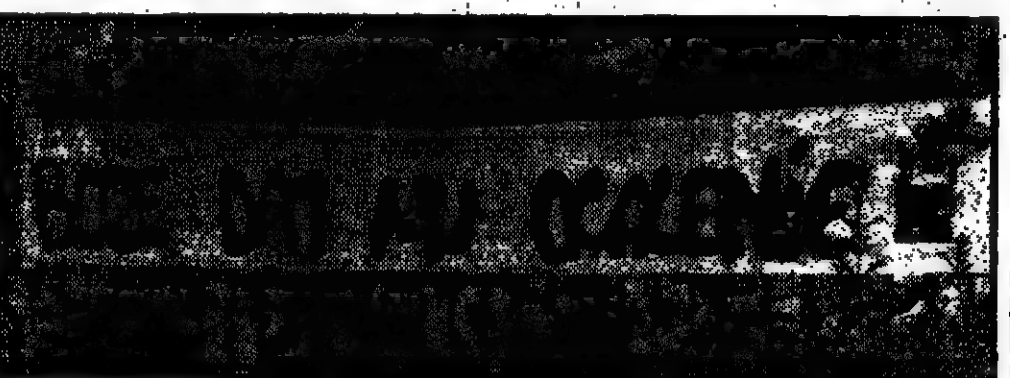
European power and one should weigh its human rights record against those of its neighbours. In addition, this country has no specific human rights complaints against Turkey going through the system.

On the other hand — as Sir Geoffrey Howe pointed out during his recent visit to Turkey — things are a bit rough and that makes it difficult for Westminster. Britain feels, in FO jargon, "disquiet" about continuing repression in Turkey. Even so, we would like to do more

business with the Ozal regime.

Opinion in Ankara is divided about whether it was the credits and cost-cutting or political public relations which finally lost Britain the contract. But the calculated coolness of Britain last week undoubtedly played a part in the decision making process.

It was Cleveland Bridge, a Trafalgar House subsidiary which built the first Bosphorus bridge 12 years ago which lost out last week. But for the record, Mr Ozal stressed that there were plenty more contracts up for grabs and claimed that his economy was on the up and up and open to all comers.



"God Save Him": the sign outside Father Popieluszko's church last year

HELLA PICK, in Warsaw, on a pro-Solidarnosc revival Masses of resistance

ON MAY Day this week in Warsaw, 10,000 people set off on a pro-Solidarity march to counter the official celebrations led by General Jaruzelski. Before they started, they all attended mass in the church of Saint Stanislaw Kostka — once the church of the murdered Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

The church — in a Warsaw suburb — has now become a political as well as a religious shrine, a symbol of challenge to the Polish regime. An unending stream of people come from all parts of the country, and abroad, to shrille past the grave, lay flowers, and sink on their knees in silent prayer.

Inside, there is a gallery of photographs of Father Popieluszko, young, fierce, and very personable. There are also photographs of the diavoli on the *Vistula* where his battered body was recovered, and of a car like the one into which his captors bundled him. And his political message is kept alive by a succession of priests who officiate over the "Mass for the Homeland" that he always held on the last Sunday of the month.

Last Sunday, Father Lewak declared that Poland was "the scene of a dramatic ideological struggle between atheistic communism and Christianity." His homily was relayed by loudspeakers to a crowd of perhaps 15,000 people, standing outside the overcrowded church on an unseasonably cold evening. He said that Father Popieluszko had been a martyr for faith and truth, and he expressed the hope that the struggle between Church and State, between believers and atheists, would be maintained. "Who is going to be the shepherd of Polish youth: Jesus Christ or Karl Marx, a man who was morally weak, and whose spiritual record was repulsive?"

Poland, Father Lewak went on, shows "eloquent proof of the failure of 40 years of atheist propaganda." He concluded his sermon with prayers for the release of political prisoners, and for the restoration of Solidarity.

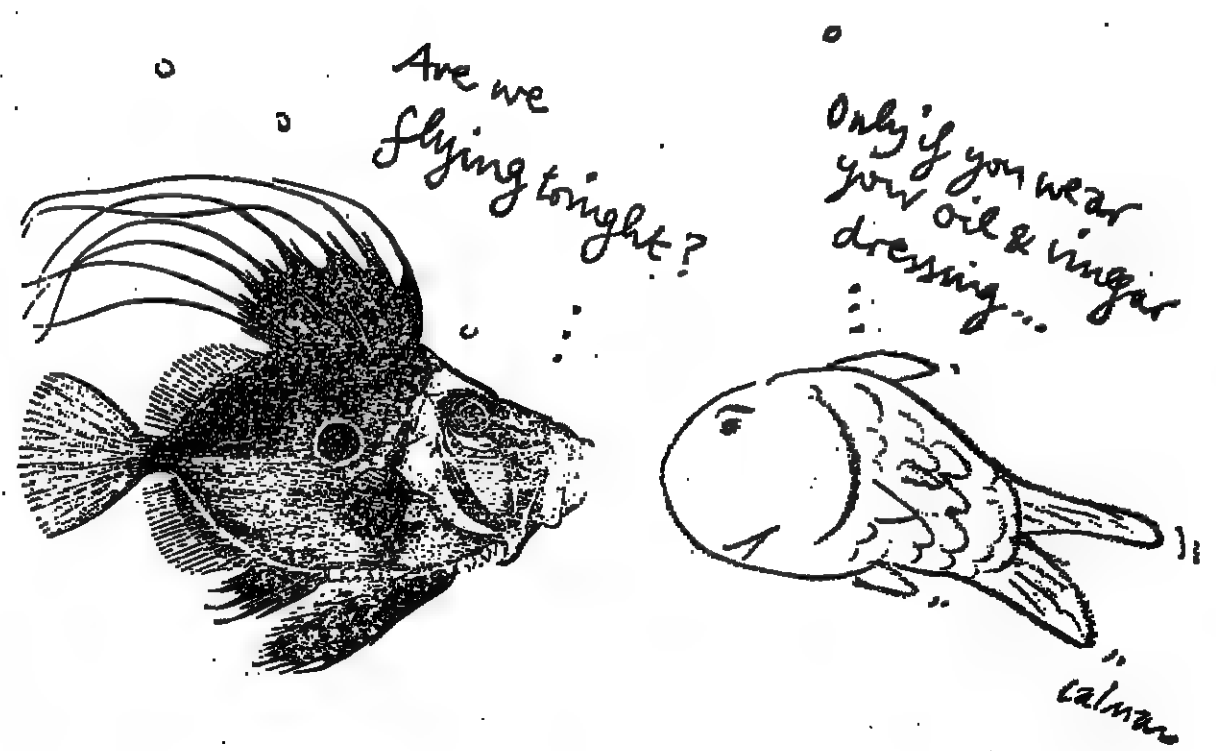
Such homilies, and similar prayers, are being read in Poland's innumerable packed churches, Sunday after Sunday, and — often during the week — they signify far more than an emotional response to a martyred priest. A member of the Polish Curia, the body which administers the affairs of the Episcopate in Poland, drew a little sketch for me to illustrate the current confrontation between Church and State. On the left margin of a sheet of paper, there was a box entitled "Armies of the Church." On the other side he drew a much smaller box for the "Armies of the Party and the State." In between he left a large blank space — to symbolise not only the extent to which they are divided by their competing philosophies, but also the ground that each side seeks to capture. The sketch was designed to show the Polish nation as a battleground between an atheistic state and a Roman Catholic Church, which in Poland is equally absolutist, verging on fundamentalism. The Polish Church defends human rights, and is widely per-

ceived inside and outside Poland as a stout defender of Solidarity. Yet it can be as intolerant of religious dissent as the State is of political dissent.

Any criticism of the Pope's conservatism in respect to dogma, or of his opposition to liberation theology, is instantly interpreted by the Polish Primate as high treason. In a recent sermon, Cardinal Glemp not only criticised an article in the weekly paper, *Polytika* (which suggested that the Pope was motivated by strongly-held anti-Communist views), but also scolded the "on the Holy Father based on ignorance and naivety."

During the period of martial law, it looked as though the Polish regime and the Polish Primate, with his Bishops, had reached a tacit understanding. The Church appeared ready to cooperate to the extent of maintaining law and order, and trying to rally a disillusioned nation. But that is now history. Any idea of a common effort to revive the national spirit has given way to apathy. "People are tired," everyone agrees. Sporadic marches, like the one on May Day, do not signify the restoration of Solidarity. The Church, in this situation, sees no overriding need to help the government. It prefers to lead the alternate society, to use the battleground between the armies of Christ and of atheism for reconnaissance patrols.

The Church now organises performances of plays by those of Poland's leading writers, producers and actors, who do not want to cooperate with the secular authority. Father Ozulik, who acts as a spokesman for Cardinal Glemp, is reluctant to claim that the Polish Church is gaining new recruits. Its following is already vast. A great many people, he explains, who might otherwise stay away from church, come because they see it as a mental refuge, where the symbols of political opposition to the regime are still kept alive.



Somehow the first guppy in space (courtesy of Russia's Soyuz 21) didn't quite capture the imagination. The British have always taken their fish a little more seriously. Mobil too. We purveyed vegetable frying oil to the fish parlours of Manchester 80 years ago. Today it's the live ones around our North Sea platforms and in the Thames by our refinery that excite our interest. We make sure that every drop of water we use is thoroughly cleaned before it's put back. (In fact it's even cleaner than when we took it out). That keeps our piscine neighbours swimmingly fit and healthy, even if they're not high fryers.

Mobil

There was an Englishman, an Irishman and .



Can we cope with oil's decline?

THE UK's economic recovery was sustained in 1984, despite the depressing effects of the miners' strike. However, the economy now faces two new challenges. North Sea oil production is close to its peak and will soon start to decline. World trade is set to grow much more slowly in the next two years. How will the UK cope with these problems?

The Item Club met recently to consider this with the aid of the Treasury's model of the UK economy. It concluded that while there is a good chance of continued growth in domestic demand, accompanied by a modest decline in inflation and lower interest rates, this dual challenge to the UK's trading position will gradually sap the strength of the recovery.

In 1984 the UK economy grew by 2½ per cent, the third year in succession that growth had exceeded 2 per cent. This was a particularly creditable performance when the effect of the miners' strike, which knocked around 1 per cent off GDP last year, is taken into account.

In addition, the dispute added around £3 billion to the import bill, yet the balance of payments stayed in surplus. Less tangibly, the strike may have dented business confidence, and added to the pressure on sterling. But despite the gradual decline in the exchange rate, which pushed up import costs, inflation ended the year below 5 per cent.

At the end of 1984 there was growing optimism that, given a resolution of the coal strike, the UK recovery would enjoy a vigorous, with stable inflation and declining interest rates. This would give the Government

With oil production likely to start falling after the end of this year, mounting problems are envisaged for the economy according to the latest Item Club forecast, interpreted by Mark Cliffe, Don Franklin and Rob Marshall

greater leeway to tackle the high and still rising level of unemployment.

This year was less than a month old before the balloon burst. A run on sterling threatened to endanger the Government's hard-won gains in the battle against inflation. Interest rates were raised sharply to restore confidence in the currency. The Budget, although billed as a "Budget for Jobs", was framed in such a way as to reaffirm the Government's anti-inflationary zeal, and hence its anxiety to avert another downward lurch in sterling. The tax cut of only £750 million compared with earlier expectations of as much as £3 billion.

Sentiment towards sterling was transformed. With the invisible dollar at last beginning to fall back on signs of weakness in the US economy and financial system, sterling recovered strongly. This allowed UK interest rates to edge down again, a process Item believes will continue.

Coupled with the firming of sterling, this should allow inflation to fall, following a temporary jump to over 6 per cent in the second quarter of this year, to under 4

per cent in the first half of 1986. Inflation is also helped by the world picture of slower growth and the resultant dampening effect on oil and commodity prices.

Falling inflation boosts consumer spending power, and it is this which is the principal support for growth in the next 12 months, offsetting the depressing effect of higher interest rates and the tighter budget. Growth in 1985 is also boosted by the improvement in oil trade following the miners' strike and reasonable export growth stimulated by the currently buoyant world trade.

However, other components of demand are expected to weaken. The surge in capital expenditure in 1984 may prove to have been exceptional. It followed a rapid rise in company profits and probably reflected, in part, a catching up on replacement deferred during the recession plus some pull forward of spending to beat the phasing out of capital allowances.

Recent business surveys point to slower investment growth in 1985 and 1986. Stockbuilding is expected to remain subdued and the Gov-

ernment is aiming for lower public spending growth.

By the next budget there should be clear evidence that growth is slowing. The Chancellor is committed to maintaining adequate growth in money GDP: this would imply a major stimulus in the 1986 budget.

The trouble is that any attempt to maintain monetary demand in any environment of slowing world trade and declining oil production will inevitably lead to balance of payments difficulties.

World trade is expected to slow significantly in 1985 and 1986 as a consequence of declining US growth and an inadequate response to this in the rest of the world. And with the UK's major trading competitors continuing to enjoy success in reducing inflation, it will be vital that UK exporters strive to remain competitive.

Sterling's recovery, good news for inflation, is a setback for competitiveness. Item expects UK export growth to decelerate sharply from 6 per cent in 1984 to around 2 per cent by 1987 as a result.

North Sea oil output is expected to fall from a peak of 2.25 million tonnes in 1985 to 1.10 million in 1987. Over the last three years oil has boosted the trade balance by an extra £3½ billion each year; over the next three years it will depress the visible account by about £1½ billion per annum, even if the oil price is maintained.

One way to maintain mon-

etary growth, while averting a balance of payments disaster, would be to encourage rapid depreciation of sterling. This would enable UK producers of tradable goods and services to increase market share, so compensating for falling oil revenues and the weakness of export markets. The danger is that the benefits of a lower exchange rate will be frittered away in increased prices and wages. Growth in money GDP would only have been achieved by means of higher inflation, with little benefit to real growth or to the balance of payments.

This danger is clearly dominating government thinking. At the moment it appears to be attempting to hold sterling at current levels, and not allow even the gentle depreciation assumed in Item's central forecast.

With this in mind Item simulated on the Treasury model the consequences of pursuing a strong exchange rate policy, while at the same time allowing the Chancellor to attempt to maintain demand growth by a large tax cut of £5½ billion in 1986. Even this proved insufficient to prevent growth slipping to below 1 per cent by 1987, while the balance of payments moves into a deficit of £3 billion in that year.

If the Government is not to attempt to maintain growth by a weak exchange rate, it must be pinning its hopes on the effectiveness of its "supply side" policies.

Improving the operation of the labour market has become a central pre-occupation. Recent measures such as the changed structure for national insurance and amendments to employment protection law and wages councils are designed to improve flexibility, work incentives and reduce pay rises.

Similar thinking lies behind the Government's aim to cut income tax. Consequently, the scope for such micro-economic reforms designed in part on the room for tax cuts in the medium Term Financial Strategy.

Item believes that the Government will enjoy greater success in keeping to its spending targets, having built into its plans large contingency reserves of £1 billion and £6 billion in the next two financial years. As a result there may be scope for tax cuts of £3½ billion in 1986 and a further £2 billion in 1987, which income tax, house insurance and corporation tax cuts will account for.

Item's forecast suggests that the balance of payments will rise by around 600,000 in the next two years. However, this is not enough to bring about a sustained reduction in unemployment. Unless the "supply side" of the economy improves more quickly than allowed for by the model, the performance of Britain's external trade will prevent sufficient growth being generated for the jobsless total to decline.

Without pursuit of the high risk option of a sharp decline in the exchange rate, the only hope for lower unemployment in the UK appears to lie with a concerted OECD-wide refashioning. Even the Treasury accepts that North Sea oil output will decline after 1985. Yet there is scant evidence from official statements that the consequences for the rest of the economy are appreciated.

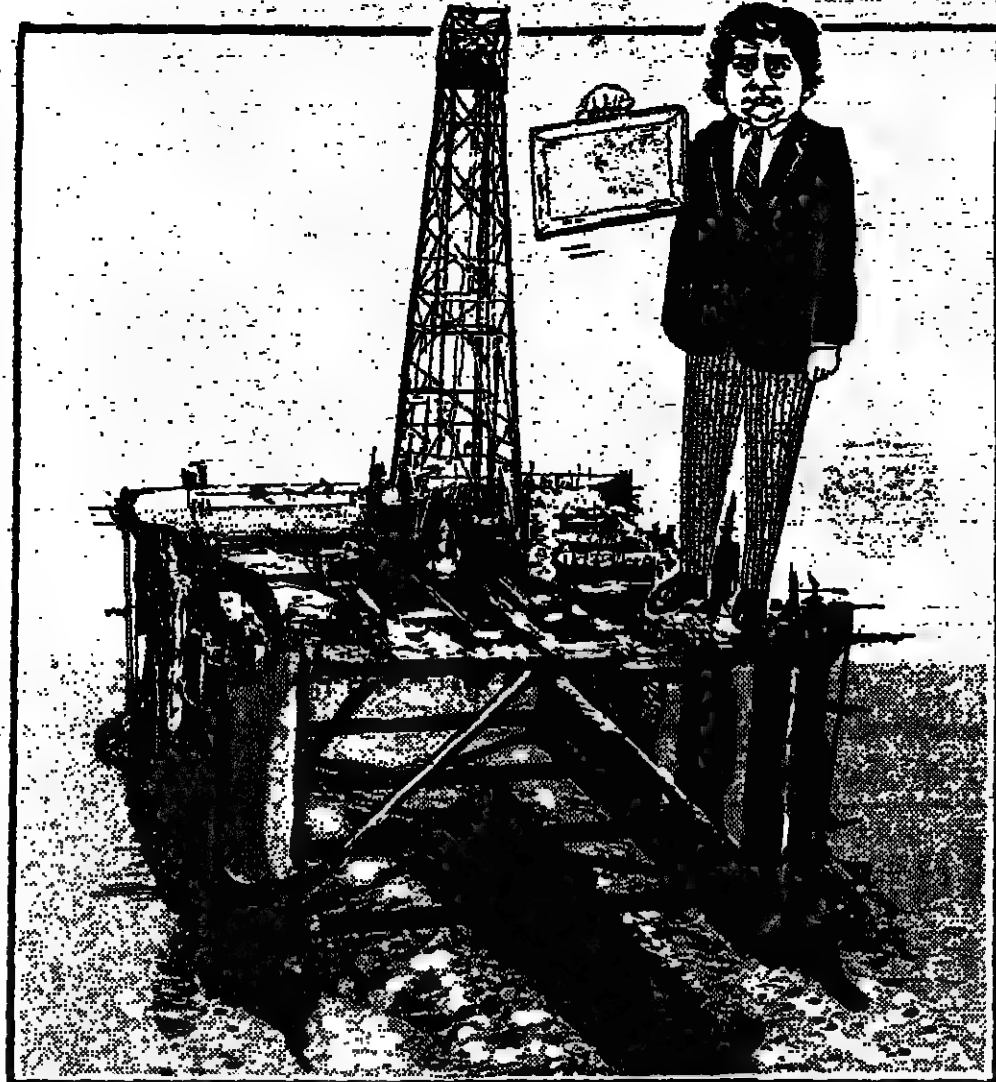
When the Chancellor described the continued growth of the economy since 1981 as "unprecedented" in his budget speech he conveniently forgot that this period also witnessed an equally unprecedented rise in the value of North Sea oil output.

In the period 1981-84 it added 1 per cent to growth, £5 billion to government revenue and £10 billion to the visible trade balance. In the same period the trade balance in manufactured goods moved from a surplus of £4.6 billion to a deficit of £3.8 billion.

From a peak of 125 million tonnes in 1985, oil output is expected to decline to 110 million by 1987. Even if it is assumed that the current world oil price stays constant in dollar terms and that the dollar/sterling exchange rate remains below \$1.50 (a higher rate would reduce the value of oil in sterling), the contribution of oil to the trade balance will decline from over £2½ billion in 1985 down to £19 billion in 1987.

If the economy grows at 2 per cent a year from 1986 onwards, as the Treasury expects, and this expansion is based on the private rather than the public sector, it is likely that imports of manufactured goods will continue to rise at the current rate of about 8 per cent a year in volume terms but with less oil to pay for them.

The Government may be pinning its hopes on a "supply side" improvement in the economy holding down import growth or maintaining the recent rapid rise in manufactured exports to, so to speak, pay for the imports. Few economists would put much faith in this, and the recent success in exporting can be accounted for by the rapid US led rise in world



trade growth which is not expected to persist. Even if sterling depreciates to bring about some improvement in UK price competitiveness, the non-oil trade deficit is expected to worsen by £2 billion by 1987.

A more likely area for improvement, however, is Britain's invisible balance. We have been more successful at trading in tourism, insurance and other financial services than in manufactured goods. Our surplus in this trade, currently \$4 billion a year, may rise to \$7 billion by 1987.

Britain will also derive increasing benefits from the trend towards heavy overseas investment of the last few years. The net stock of UK overseas assets rose from £23 billion in 1979 to £70 billion in 1984, and this will rise further. The net return on these assets currently contributes £2.5 billion a year to the invisible balance and could provide as much as \$7.5 billion in 1987.

However, the improved invisible balance is not enough to compensate for worsening oil and non-oil trade. The current account is forecast to return to deficit by 1987, for the first time since 1979. And the deterioration is only curbed because Item expects economic growth to flag by 1987, in contrast to the Treasury's projection. A Britain with less oil looks increasingly like a Britain that needs a "supply-side" miracle or a much lower exchange rate.

The world will soon be suffering the consequences of the current slowdown in US growth. World trade rose by around 9 per cent in volume terms last year, but this

was largely due to a near 30 per cent rise in imports into the US, fuelled by a significant rise in domestic demand, and the huge loss of US competitiveness caused by the meteoric rise in the dollar.

Such rapid, unbalanced growth was clearly unsustainable. There is now clear evidence of deceleration in the US. This, plus worries over the soundness of the American financial system, has in the last two months shaken the apparent invincibility of the dollar.

Item expects a continued decline in the dollar as the US becomes an increasingly less attractive haven for international capital.

Weaker domestic demand growth coupled with a falling dollar will lead to much slower growth in US imports. Nevertheless, the damage to the competitiveness of US industry and agriculture by the rise in the dollar will mean that the current account deficit will continue to mushroom. From over \$100 billion in 1984 it may exceed \$190 billion by 1987.

Slower US import growth will take away what was the main prop for the world growth in 1984. Item has analysed the implications for the rest of the world using the Treasury's model of the world economy. The main conclusion drawn is that unless there is a concerted refashioning in the other OECD economies, only sluggish growth is in prospect with OECD unemployment rising a further two million by 1987 to over 30 million. Even if the inflationary consequences of a collapse in their currencies meant that the rising dollar kept the pressure on governments in

Europe and Japan to hold up their interest rates. But even though the dollar now seems to be heading down, they appear loathe to responding by cutting rates.

Fiscal policies remain restrictive while the dread fear of a resurgence in inflation still prevails and widespread calls for concerted action are so far unheeded. Without such countervailing action economic growth in Japan is likely to slacken as the growth in exports to the US trails off.

Even in Europe, which is less reliant on the US market, there may be only a marginal improvement on the recent 2 per cent annual growth rate.

Financial crisis in the Third World has been eased by the recent surge of exports to the US. With world growth weakening from now on and commodity prices, consequently, likely to remain soft, financial pressure on developing countries will intensify. Like certain Opec countries which are adjusting to lower oil prices and demand, their economies will have to restrain domestic expansion.

All of this is a recipe for a continued decline in world inflation. Even in the US inflation will remain subdued, despite a falling dollar, as it continues to enjoy the disinflationary benefits of the dollar's previous strength.

But despite the progress made against inflation and the consequent ease of unemployment of more sluggish growth, there is little sign of a change in heart by policy makers. Consequently the promise that faster real growth would follow lower inflation shows little sign as yet of being realised.

The Item Club is a group of practising economists from the private and public sectors which uses the Treasury model of the UK and world economies to produce quarterly economic forecasts that are not designed to support any particular theory or policy prescription. The club operates in association with Scicon, the BP computer services business (for further information contact: Rob Marshall, 01-580 5599 ext. 2746).

London and Manchester Group plc

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr H L K Browne, F.C.A., on the Group Report and Accounts for 1984

I referred in my statement last year to the likely effects of the withdrawal of Life Assurance Premium Relief (LAPR) from new business and the intention to introduce newly designed contracts to meet clients' needs in the changed circumstances. While the loss of LAPR has undoubtedly had some effect on new business figures, particularly in the industrial branch, the overall results for 1984 now before you reflect, I believe, a very satisfactory response to a challenging year.

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account and Dividend
Income has been received from London and Manchester Assurance by transfers of £4,011,000 from the main life funds and £1,350,000 from the investment trust retirement annuity fund. The transfer from the main life funds includes a first contribution of £100,000 from surplus emerging within the segregated fund of mainly linked life business introduced through the life broker division.

The general branch loss after tax amounted to £486,000. The consolidated profit and loss account also includes the Group's share of the profit of the new associated company, London and Manchester (Mortgages) Limited of £277,000 and, for the first time, a transfer from the long term fund of London and Manchester (Pensions) Limited, amounting to £175,000.

Investment income for the year fell by £39,000 to £1,058,000 following the transfer of invested assets from the shareholders' funds arising out of the purchase of London and Manchester (Pensions) Limited by the holding company on 31 December 1983.

After setting off the expenses of management and taxation there remains a balance of £5,791,000 which has enabled your Board to recommend a final dividend of 14.00p per share (1983 11.48p). This, together with the interim dividend of 5.81p per share paid in November 1984, makes a total of 19.81p per share (1983 16.48p). After providing for these dividends the balance carried forward has been increased by £1,248,000.

Bonuses
The normal reversionary bonus in the ordinary branch has been maintained at 25.75 per cent of the sum assured while industrial branch bonuses have been improved.

A further step has been taken this year in the development of the complete bonus system by declaring additional reversionary bonuses of 2.50 per cent in the ordinary branch and 2.2 per cent in the industrial branch on reversionary bonuses already declared. The cost of this declaration has been met by the transfer from investments revaluation reserve of £1.25 million to each branch. In addition increased transfers of £4.5 million to the ordinary branch and £3.8 million to the industrial branch have been made to provide for terminal bonuses.

The Insurance Market
The Government's White Paper on self-regulation within the financial sector which was published on 29 January 1985 is likely to have significant consequences for the life assurance industry. Last year I commented on your Board's view of the Registry of Life Assurance Commissioners (ROLAC). Nothing has changed that view and, accordingly, representations have been made on the proposals in the White Paper for the treatment of commissions. It is your Board's opinion that the competitiveness of products and market forces provide a more effective protection for the investor than rules concerning the disclosure or limitation of commissions, mechanisms which can so easily fail to achieve their objectives in such a complex market place. During the year work proceeded on the creation of an Association of British Insurers (ABI) with the intention of unifying the various associations which currently represent insurance companies. Your Board has viewed this development with some concern for it has always considered the Industrial Life Offices Association (ILOA) as particularly effective in representing the home service industry. There is some danger that the larger ABI may be less responsive to the needs of the home service offices and your Board will seek to ensure that under the new structure the interests promoted by the ILOA are actively pursued.

Home Service Division
The year has been one of intense product development in a sector of the market which has often seen the Group introduce innovative products. Moneyplan, introduced in June 1984, is a regular premium contract which offers enhanced investment returns for those aged 50 and over. The Preferred Portfolio Plan provides a choice of investment funds and has already proved popular with those clients who have lump sums to invest. Other contracts which were introduced during 1984 included a savings plan for the young investor and a personal retirement contract for the self-employed offering long-term flexibility. The latter, known as The Independent Pension Plan, has achieved excellent results to date. The prospects for 1985 are already very encouraging with a successful start to the annual sales competition and the increasing effect of the new product range.

Life Broker Division
In 1984, new annual premiums increased by 27 per cent and single premiums, at over £20 million, were up by 41 per cent. In addition much has been done to expand the range of intermediaries who support the division.

The unit-linked Investment Mortgage Plan proved to be the success of the year whilst High Five was one of the first plans to be launched specifically to provide maximum investment over the shorter term. In addition, two new retirement plans, one for the self-employed and the other for the executive director, were introduced. These Individual Retirement Plans have considerably enhanced the division's competitive position in this sector of the market place.

In 1985, a most significant new development has been the recent launch of Lifespan, a contract which offers a wide range of benefits and flexible premiums in order to cope with life's changing needs.

Pensions Division

The political environment in which the division operates has been the subject of far more speculation than in recent years and in this climate the division has been well served by the ability of many of its existing contracts to meet the changing needs and obligations of employers. To this range the Total Pension Plan was added during the year. The plan is a unique money purchase scheme which meets the needs of both large and small employers by incorporating a wide range of options. The market received the plan in a very positive manner and it completes a range of products which your Board considers to be highly competitive. In terms of new business, money purchase contracts showed a strong increase in 1984 although total new annual premiums were only 4 per cent up on the previous year. Single premiums were 54 per cent higher than in 1983 at over £12 million and in this respect it was particularly pleasing to see Transplan ahead of target.

During 1985 marketing of the Managed Fund contract will take a greater prominence and this should be helped by the excellent investment performance which has been recorded since its launch.

General Branch

The introduction of revised contracts and more flexible means of payment have brought their rewards in terms of new business. New annual premiums of just over £1.5 million contributed towards a 21 per cent increase in total premium income for the year to £8.6 million. Hospital Cash Provider Plan, introduced last autumn, is unique within the home service industry. For a modest weekly premium it provides financial assistance in the event of the policyholder or a member of his family entering hospital. To date sales have been ahead of plan and the contract has been very useful in attracting new clients.

Investments
During the year, the main life funds made net investments of £37.4 million in gilts and other fixed interest securities, £5.8 million in property and only £1.6 million overseas. A total of £24.9 million was divested from UK equities.

Corporate activity in investment trusts continued at a high level during the year. The Group benefited from the acquisition of Anglo Scottish by Japan Assets, and of Bishopsgate, London Prudential and Oil & Associated by companies outside the sector. However, the highlight of the year was the successful bid by London and Manchester Assurance for The Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment Trust plc (1928). Group companies now hold 50.2 per cent of the company with the balance in the hands of individuals and other institutions. Mr Martin Harris has been appointed Chairman and the other directors are Mr David Rowe-Ham and Mr Andrew Withey, with Mr Ian Henderson and Lord Wakehurst nominated by London and Manchester. A new investment policy has been implemented and 1928 now holds a portfolio consisting primarily of investment trust shares. The takeover of 1928 is consistent with the Group's long term interest in investment trusts where total holdings now exceed £230 million.

Mortgages
In my statement last year I referred to the establishment of an associated company, London and Manchester (Mortgages) Limited, with the objective of advancing money at variable rates of interest with funds supplied by a commercial bank. Such was the success of this operation in 1984 that it became necessary to secure further funds substantially in excess of those originally envisaged. In January of this year there was finalised a transaction whereby £200 million was made available by way of a syndicated loan arranged by a leading merchant bank. Your Board believes that this move has laid the foundations of a business which will produce substantial life and general business for London and Manchester Assurance as well as being profitable in its own right. In its first year of operation the mortgage company has made a satisfactory contribution to Group profit.

Unit Trusts
Last year I referred to the creation of the Group's first unit trust, London and Manchester General Trust. In December 1984 two more unit trusts, the Income and International Trusts, were launched. Total funds under management now exceed £18 million with a substantial holding being attributable to the policyholders' funds.

Investment Management Services
The acquisition of a controlling interest in 1928 led the Group to establish London and Manchester (Asset Management) Limited, for the provision of investment management and associated services. Drawing on existing resources within the Group the new company successfully took over the full range of services required by the investment trust company and led the Group into a new area of activity.

Concluding Comments
It has been my practice since I became Chairman to commence my annual statement with a word of appreciation to the management and staff. I shall be retiring at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting and I feel that on this occasion such expressions would be more appropriate at the end of my report. I wish therefore to record my very sincere thanks to the management and staff, both at Chief Office and in the field, for their support, co-operation and friendship not only during 1984 but throughout the period that I have had the honour and pleasure of serving the Group.

My colleagues on the Board have been particularly encouraging and understanding and I am most grateful to them for their support and advice. I am delighted that they have appointed Mr John Thomson to succeed me. Mr Thomson has been a director since 1974 and a Deputy Chairman for the past two years. He brings with him not only a wealth of commercial experience but also a strong commitment to the expansion of the Group and I wish him every success in his new responsibility.

THE ITEM CLUB FORECASTS FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY

GDP growth % pa	1984	1985	1986
USA	2.2	3.8	2.6
Japan	5.7	5.2	4.2
West Germany	2.6	2.7	3.0
France	1.8	2.0	1.7
OECD average	5.0	3.5	2.8
Inflation % pa	1984	1985	1986
USA	4.3	3.0	2.5
Japan	2.2	2.7	2.0
West Germany	2.4	2.5	1.7
France	7.7	5.8	2.5
OECD average	4.5	3.6	3.0

"Substantial Growth Assured"

Forward bookings indicate that 1985 will be an excellent year with virtually all our hotels budgeting record levels. This, in conjunction with

improved financing and a full contribution from hotels acquired in 1983, leads the Board to believe that substantial growth this year is assured.

Our trading highlights

- Record profits - £6,580,000 in 1984, up 47%.
- Dividend increased by 20%.
- Earnings per share up 41%.
- Further hotel acquisitions in hand.
- Now 60 hotels in the Group.
- Convertible Preference issue creates opportunities.

Queens Moat Houses

For a copy of the 1984 Report & Accounts write to:
Company Secretary, Queens Moat Houses P.L.C., FREEPOST, Romford, Essex RM1 2BR.

The Directors of the Company whose names appear in this Offer document (the "Prospectus"), but excluding Mr. C. J. Wells who is severely indisposed through illness, are the persons responsible for the information contained herein. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (other than Mr. Wells), who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this Prospectus is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect materially the import of such information and they accept responsibility accordingly.

The application list for the Ordinary Shares now offered will open at 10 am on 10th May 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The procedure for application and a Public Application Form are set out at the end of this Prospectus.

Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the new Ordinary Shares now being issued to be admitted to the Official List.

A copy of this Prospectus, which comprises the listing particulars relating to the Company in accordance with The Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 1984, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration as required by those Regulations.

No person receiving a copy of this Prospectus and/or an application form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation to him, nor should he in any event use such application form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation could lawfully be made to him or such application form could lawfully be used without compliance with any unfulfilled registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom wishing to make an application hereunder to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of the relevant territory in connection therewith, including obtaining any governmental or other consents which may be required and observing any other formalities needing to be observed in such territory.



BRITISH AEROSPACE

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

OFFER

by

Kleinwort, Benson Limited

and

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited

on behalf of

British Aerospace Public Limited Company

and

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

of

146,852,746 Ordinary Shares of 50p each at 375p per share
200p is payable on application 175p is payable by 10th September 1985

underwritten by

Kleinwort, Benson Limited Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited
Hill Samuel & Co. Limited Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

KEY INFORMATION

The following information is derived from, and must be read in conjunction with, the full text of this Prospectus.

British Aerospace

British Aerospace, whose origins can be traced directly to companies which were among the pioneers of the aircraft industry in the early part of this century, is one of the largest aerospace organisations in the world. It is engaged, either on its own or in collaboration with other companies, in the design, development, production and sale of military and civil aircraft, guided weapon and space systems, in electronics and related technologies and in the provision of support services. It is one of the largest exporters of manufactured goods from the United Kingdom.

Turnover, Profit and Dividends

	Year ended 31st December 1983	1984
Turnover	£2,300 million	£2,468 million
Profit before taxation	£82 million	£120 million
Taxation	—	£12 million
Profit after taxation	£82 million	£108 million
Earnings per Ordinary Share (net basis)	41.1p	54.0p
Dividends per Ordinary Share (net)	9.1p	13.65p
Orders outstanding	£4,907 million	£4,820 million

Offer Statistics

Offer price per Ordinary Share	375p
Market capitalisation before issue of new Ordinary Shares ⁽¹⁾	£750 million
Market capitalisation after issue of new Ordinary Shares ⁽²⁾	£987.5 million
Price/earnings multiple on earnings per Ordinary Share of 54.0p ⁽³⁾	6.94 times
Gross dividend yield ⁽⁴⁾	5.2 per cent
Adjusted net assets per Ordinary Share ⁽⁵⁾	439p

Payment Arrangements

On application	200p per Ordinary Share
By 10th September 1985	175p per Ordinary Share

Notes

- (1) Market capitalisation figures have been calculated on the basis of the Offer price.
- (2) The price/earnings multiple has been calculated on the basis of the Offer price and the adjusted earnings per Ordinary Share for the year ended 31st December 1984.
- (3) The gross dividend yield is based on the gross dividends paid and/or recommended in respect of the year ended 31st December 1984 and the Offer price.
- (4) The adjusted net assets per Ordinary Share have been calculated on the basis of net assets at 31st December 1984 adjusted for the net proceeds of the issue of the new Ordinary Shares and on the basis of the Ordinary Shares in issue following the Offer.

DETAILS OF THE OFFER

On 15th January 1985, it was announced that HM Government and the Company had agreed to make a combined Offer under which HM Government would sell the whole of its remaining shareholding in the Company and the Company would make an issue of new shares.

A total of 146,852,746 Ordinary Shares of 50p each are now being offered at a price of 375p per share, of which 200p is payable on application and 175p is payable by 10th September 1985. Of these shares, 96,852,746 Ordinary Shares, representing 48.43 per cent. of the Company's existing issued ordinary share capital, are being offered for sale by HM Government. The remaining 50,000,000 shares are new Ordinary Shares being issued by the Company. Although the Company has no immediate need for funds, the Board has taken the view that it is sensible to increase its equity base at the same time as HM Government is disposing of its holding of Ordinary Shares. The estimated net proceeds (before selling commissions) of the issue of the new Ordinary Shares of £179.5 million will be used for the longer-term development of the Company's business.

Existing Ordinary Shareholders are being given preferential entitlements to acquire the new Ordinary Shares on the basis of one new Ordinary Share for every four Ordinary Shares held by them at the close of business on 30th April 1985. HM Government has informed the Company that it does not intend to take up its preferential entitlement to new Ordinary Shares. Of the Ordinary Shares being offered for sale by HM Government, 5,000,000 are available for preferential allocation to eligible employees of the Company. To the extent that these preferential entitlements are not taken up by existing shareholders and employees, the shares will be available under the Offer. Further details of the arrangements for existing shareholders and employees are set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 under "Statutory and General Information".

As explained in "Procedure for Application", no allocation or allocations in excess of ten per cent. of the offered Ordinary Shares will be made to any one person or associated persons.

All the 146,852,746 Ordinary Shares now being offered have been underwritten by five merchant banks. Invitations are being made on 1st May 1985 to certain United Kingdom institutional investors ("Priority Applicants") to apply for all of the offered Ordinary Shares. Priority Applicants will each be guaranteed a minimum number of the offered Ordinary Shares, in aggregate not exceeding 55 per cent. of the offered Ordinary Shares. They will also offer to acquire the balance of the offered Ordinary Shares, which will be allocated to them in the event that other valid applications are not received.

Following the Offer, HM Government will hold no shares in the Company except the Special Share. The Special Share does not carry any right to vote at General Meetings and entitles the holder to speak at such Meetings only on matters relating to the rights of the holder of the Special Share. Any alteration of the Articles of Association of the Company relating to United Kingdom control, to the nationality of the Directors and to the Government Director requires the prior consent of the holder of the Special Share. Further details relating to the Special Share are set out in paragraph 2 under "Statutory and General Information".

The offered Ordinary Shares will rank for the interim dividend in respect of the financial year ending 31st December 1985 (but not the final dividend in respect of the year ended 31st December 1984) and will carry the right to vote, subject in each case to registration following payment of the second instalment. If anyone wishes to exercise votes in respect of his offered Ordinary Shares prior to 10th September 1985, this may be done upon early payment of the second instalment and subsequent registration. The rights and remedies attaching to the new Ordinary Shares and to HM Government's Ordinary Shares are referred to in paragraph 5 under "Statutory and General Information" and the arrangements for the allocation of such shares are described under "Procedure for Application".

The Ordinary Shares are offered solely on the basis of the information and representations made herein. No other information given or representation made by any person should be relied upon and no person responsible for this Prospectus, or any part thereof, shall have any liability for any such other information or representations (see paragraph (1) (xiv) under "Terms and Conditions").

DEFINITIONS

"British Aerospace"	British Aerospace Public Limited Company and its subsidiaries and/or, as the case may be, their respective predecessors in business, or any of them.
"Company"	British Aerospace Public Limited Company.
"Ordinary Shares"	Ordinary Shares of 50p each in the Company.
"new Ordinary Shares"	The 50,000,000 new Ordinary Shares now being offered for subscription by the Company.
"HM Government's Ordinary Shares"	The 96,852,746 existing Ordinary Shares now being offered for sale by HM Government.
"offered Ordinary Shares"	The new Ordinary Shares and HM Government's Ordinary Shares.
"Offer"	The offers for subscription and sale herein referred to.
"Offer price"	The price of each of the offered Ordinary Shares.
"Special Share"	The Special Share of £1 described in paragraph 7 under "Statutory and General Information".

BRITISH AEROSPACE PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

Directors	Secretary and Registered Office Brian Cookson, LL.B., Solicitor British Aerospace Public Limited Company, 100 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HR
Sir Austin William Pearce, C.B.E., Ph.D., F.Eng. <i>Chairman</i>	
Sir Raymond Derek Lygo, K.C.B. <i>Managing Director</i>	Financial Advisers to the Company Kleinwort, Benson Limited, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB
Kenneth Milton Bevis, C.B.E., T. J. <i>Non-executive Director and Government Director</i>	Financial Advisers to HM Government Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2BT
Sir Kenneth Durham <i>Non-executive Director</i>	Solicitors to the Company Linklaters & Paines, Barrington House, 59-61 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA
Bernard Ernest Friend, F.C.A. <i>Finance Director</i>	Solicitors to the Offer Slaughter and May, 35 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DE
Derek Oliver Gladwin, C.B.E. <i>Non-executive Director</i>	Solicitors to the Underwriters Freshfields, Grindall House, 25 Newgate Street, London EC1A 3LH
John Lewis Glasscock, <i>Deputy Chief Executive, Aircraft Group</i>	Auditors Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Chartered Accountants 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD
Harold Arthur Hitchcock, D.F.C. <i>Non-executive Director</i>	Brokers to the Offer Hoare Govett Limited, Heron House, 319-325 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PB
Thomas George Kent, C.B.E. <i>Deputy Chief Executive, Dynamics Group</i>	Cazenove & Co., 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN
Hugh Metcalfe, C.B.E., F.Eng. <i>Chief Executive, Dynamics Group</i>	Registrars Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA
John Trevor Stamper, F.Eng. <i>Technical Director</i>	
Sir Jack Alfred Wellings, C.B.E. <i>Non-executive Director</i>	
Colin James Wells <i>Personnel Director</i>	
Ivan Ray Yates, C.B.E., F.Eng. <i>Chief Executive, Aircraft Group</i>	
all of British Aerospace Public Limited Company, 100 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HR	

THE BUSINESS OF BRITISH AEROSPACE

Introduction

British Aerospace, whose origins can be traced directly to companies which were among the pioneers of the aircraft industry in the early part of this century, is one of the largest aerospace organisations in the world. It is engaged, either on its own or in collaboration with other companies, in the design, development, production and sale of military and civil aircraft, guided weapon systems, space systems, and related technologies and in the provision of support services. British Aerospace is one of the largest exporters of manufactured goods from the United Kingdom and employs approximately 70,000 people.

On 4th February 1981, just over half of the issued shares in the Company were offered by HM Government to the general public and to employees, the remaining shares being retained by HM Government. Since then, the shares of the Company have been listed on The Stock Exchange, London. In 1982, British Aerospace purchased the assets and business of the Gyroscopic Division of Sperry Limited for £42 million in cash.

The turnover and trading profit of the principal activities of British Aerospace in each of the two years to 31st December 1984 were as follows:

	1983			1984		
	UK	Export	Total	UK	Export	Total
Military aircraft and support services	304	728	1,032	298	697	995
Civil aircraft	79	358	437	72	500	572
Guided weapon systems and other products	488	224	712	504	267	771
Space	32	111	143	30	80	110
	893	1,417	2,310	904	1,564	2,468
	1983			1984		
	£m		£m	£m		£m
Military aircraft and support services	304		1,032	298		995
Civil aircraft	79		437	72		572
Guided weapon systems and other products	488		712	504		771
Space	32		143	30		110
Company funded research and development	(38.7)		(45.3)	(37.7)		(45.4)
Reorganisation costs	(11.2)		(16.2)			

In recent years, British Aerospace has become increasingly involved in collaborative projects which offer important advantages, despite certain difficulties that collaboration can entail. In the case of military aircraft and some guided weapon projects, countries have tended to collaborate not only to share development costs but also to extend production runs and to standardise equipment among allies. In the case of the larger civil aircraft, their increasing size and sophistication has meant that development costs are often too high for individual companies to bear alone. Collaboration also increases sales potential.

Military Aircraft

Military aircraft projects typically extend over many years and generally include the provision of spares and training and lead to modification programmes to improve the aircraft's capability and to extend its useful life.

The Ministry of Defence is the largest single customer of British Aerospace for military aircraft business and, in the year ended 31st December 1984, sales to the Ministry of Defence accounted for 29 per cent. (28 per cent. in 1983) of total sales in respect of military aircraft and support services, with virtually all the balance being for export.

The principal military aircraft projects being undertaken by British Aerospace are:

Tornado

The Tornado is a swing-wing supersonic aircraft, which is being produced for the governments of the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy under a collaborative programme with German and Italian aerospace companies. The programme is managed by Panavia Aircraft GmbH in which the Company has a 44.5 per cent. interest. British Aerospace is responsible for manufacturing the forward and rear sections of the fuselage and the fin and tail and also for the final assembly and fit of all aircraft delivered to the Royal Air Force. The Tornado involves one of the largest production programmes undertaken by the British.

By 1st March 1985, British Aerospace had completed its work on 477 out of a total programme of 809 aircraft for the Royal Air Force and the German and Italian Air Forces. Two versions of the aircraft are now in production: the Interdiction Strike aircraft, of which first deliveries were made in 1980, and the Deep Strike aircraft for the Royal Air Force. The first of which are now entering service. A number of overseas countries have expressed an interest in Tornado and British Aerospace hopes that export orders will result.

Hawk

The Hawk is a dual role, two seat advanced jet trainer and light strike aircraft which was originally developed for the Royal Air Force. In 1985, the Hawk 1A aircraft had been delivered. It is used by the Royal Air Force and several other air forces. In addition, several overseas countries have ordered over 125 aircraft, of which 100 had been delivered by 1st March 1985, and British Aerospace expects further orders. The development of a single seat light strike fighter version, funded by British Aerospace, is in progress with the first flight scheduled for 1988.

A variant of the Hawk, the T45A, has been selected for the United States Navy to fulfil the role of a new trainer aircraft as part of a new jet pilot training system. This is a joint programme, with McDonnell Douglas Corporation, for which a development contract was awarded in October 1984. In the production phase, British Aerospace would be responsible for about half of the basic airframe production work. The United States Navy has said that it has a requirement for 300 aircraft by the late 1990s.

Harrier

The Harrier is the only operational vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) aircraft in the western world. Its operational capability was successfully demonstrated in the Falklands conflict. In addition to the AV-8B programme described below, a total of 343 Harriers and Sea Harriers have been ordered, including 110 AV-8B Harriers supplied to the United States Marine Corps. At 1st March 1985, 314 Harriers had been delivered.

In 1981, British Aerospace and McDonnell Douglas Corporation entered into a Teaming and Licence Agreement covering the collaborative development and manufacture of a version of the Harrier, known as the AV-8B, for the United States Marine Corps and the Royal Air Force (the Royal Air Force version being known as the GR5). The United States Marine Corps' requirement is for 332 aircraft of which 20 had been delivered by 1st March 1985. Initial orders have been placed for 63 aircraft for the Royal Air Force. The purchase of some equipment for installation in the AV-8B aircraft for the Royal Air Force has been authorised by the Ministry of Defence, including the final assembly of Royal Air Force aircraft. British Aerospace will carry out approximately 40 per cent. of the total airframe work although the manufacture of AV-8Bs for sale to other countries will be shared in different proportions between the two companies. The Spanish Navy has ordered 12 AV-8Bs (having already acquired 13 AV-8As through the United States Government).

Jaguar

The Jaguar is a dual-role advanced trainer and tactical support aircraft which has been developed by British Aerospace, in collaboration with a French manufacturer, for the United Kingdom and French governments. These governments have received all of the 403 aircraft ordered by them. A further 94 of an export version of the aircraft have been ordered of which 80 had been delivered by 1st March 1985. In addition, 78 aircraft are being manufactured in India (of which seven had been completed and delivered to the Indian Air Force) under licence from, and with some parts being supplied by, British Aerospace.

Nimrod

British Aerospace is modifying for the Royal Air Force 35 Nimrod aircraft (of which 31 had been delivered by 1st March 1985) to continue the role of maritime reconnaissance, and a further 10 to increase the range for the conversion programme for the 11 early warning aircraft. Some of the conversion work has been delayed as a result of problems associated with certain advanced avionics equipment which is supplied by another contractor, although the airframe modification work is on programme and has been substantially completed.

Defence Support Services

These services, which include training and equipment maintenance, are available to HM Government and overseas governments. As a contractor to the Ministry of Defence, British Aerospace has since 1973 provided a range of such services to the Royal Saudi Air Force. Negotiations are in progress for the fourth of the Inter-Governmental Memoranda of Understanding under which these services are provided with a view to continuing them beyond August 1985 when the current arrangements are due to end, although the Ministry of Defence intends that this work will be placed under a competitive tender in which British Aerospace will be invited to participate. This contract has been one of the largest export contracts ever awarded to the United Kingdom.

New Projects

British Aerospace is leading the development and construction of an advanced technology demonstrator fighter aircraft, the first of which is funded on a broadly equal basis by HM Government and a consortium of manufacturers. This programme, the Experimental Aircraft Programme (EAP), will bring together and demonstrate the integration of advanced technologies, such as the manufacture of large structures in carbon fibre composites, an advanced cockpit and active control technology, which may all be used in future military aircraft. In addition, British Aerospace, in conjunction with German, Italian and Spanish aerospace manufacturers, has recently completed a technical and industrial feasibility study jointly commissioned by the Governments of the five nations concerned, for a projected European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) which, together with EAP, is discussed further under Future Outlook.

Studies, funded by the Ministry of Defence, are in progress to investigate the technology required for an advanced V/STOL aircraft. Collaborative studies, funded by industry, are also taking place on a future international military/civil airliner (FIMA).

British Aerospace was disappointed not to be awarded the contract for the new basic trainer for the Royal Air Force. It proposes to continue an association with Pilatus Aircraft Limited of Switzerland for the marketing of the PC9 trainer aircraft in combination with the Hawk, wherever this is appropriate.

Civil Aircraft

British Aerospace is involved in the production of a wide variety of civil aircraft, ranging in size from a small business jet to the wide-bodied A300. Civil aircraft sales usually include the provision of initial spares, flight and ground training and lead to the long-term support of an aircraft in service. In addition, British Aerospace provides support services for aircraft built by other aerospace companies.

Captions are often taken by customers; these do not commit the customer to placing firm orders, but secure a delivery position for further aircraft.

The principal civil aircraft projects being undertaken by British Aerospace are:

Airbus

As a 20 per cent. partner in Airbus Industrie Groupement d'Intérêt Économique (Airbus Industrie), the Company collaborates in the development and production of a family of short to medium range jet airliners. There are three principal aircraft within the Airbus family, the A300, A310 and A320, each being offered in a number of variants. The A300 is a wide-bodied twin-jet aircraft of medium range routes having a typical capacity of around 270 passengers. The A310, of which the first delivery was made in Spring 1983, is a development of the A300 with a typical capacity of around 230 passengers. In March 1984, British Aerospace announced its participation in the A320 which is a single aisle aircraft with a typical capacity of around 160 passengers. The first flight of the A320 is planned for 1987 with first deliveries in 1988.

British Aerospace is responsible for the design of the wings and manufacture of the main structure of the wing, the wing box, for the A300, A310 and A320; these wings are of a highly advanced design providing weight savings and reduced drag.

By 1st March 1985, 246 A300 and 33 A310 aircraft had been delivered to 32 airlines and orders for 48 aircraft were outstanding. At the same time, orders for 31 A320 aircraft had been received and options for a further 45 granted. In addition, negotiations continued with Pan American World Airways which signed a letter of intent in September 1984 for the purchase of 12 A310s (with options for a further 13) and the purchase of 16 A320s (with options for a further 34). Pending the availability of these aircraft, Airbus Industrie is to lease to Pan Am an interim basis A310s and up to 12 A300s. By 1st March 1985, four of the leased A300s had been delivered to Pan Am.

Further details of the Airbus Industrie arrangements are set out in paragraph 11 under 'Statutory and General Information'.

BAe 146

The BAe 146 is a jet aircraft designed for short-haul services seating between 80 and 100 passengers. Two versions of the aircraft, the Series 100 and 200, are now in production. Early design and engineering work is in progress on the Series 300 aircraft, a stretched version of the Series 200, increasing the seating capacity to about 120 passengers.

British Aerospace is responsible for the overall design of the aircraft, the production of all fuselage components and final assembly. The wing boxes and the engines are built by Avco Corporation in the United States and the tailplane and moving surfaces of the wings and tail by Saab-Scania A.B. in Sweden.

The BAe 146 entered service in 1983 and by 1st March 1985 orders for 41 aircraft had been received, of which 21 aircraft had been delivered, and options for a further 36 granted. The largest single order, for 20 aircraft of which six had been delivered, has been received from Pacific Southwest Airlines, a leading carrier on the west coast of the United States which has also been granted options for a further 25 aircraft. Two BAe 146s have been ordered for the Queen's Flight of the Royal Air Force. On 24th April 1985, British Aerospace announced that it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the sale of ten aircraft to China.

BAe 125

Production of this twin-jet business aircraft commenced in 1984 and, by 1st March 1985, a total of 600 had been ordered (including two aircraft sold to British Aerospace Inc. as demonstrator aircraft) of which 395 had been delivered. More than 80 per cent. of the orders have been for export to 35 countries, including 306 aircraft sold to customers in the United States. The new BAe 125 Series 800, which can seat up to ten passengers, is now in production and 23 aircraft had been delivered by 1st March 1985.

Jetstream 31

The Jetstream 31 is a turbo-prop aircraft for low density commuter routes, carrying up to 19 passengers. The Jetstream 31, which can also be used in a corporate role, entered service in 1982 and, by 1st March 1985, orders had been obtained for 63 aircraft (including three sold to British Aerospace Inc.), of which 43 had been delivered, and an additional 10 options granted. In addition, the Royal Navy has ordered four Jetstream 31s for use in an observer training role.

BAe 749

The BAe 749 is a short range turbo-prop aircraft with a capacity of up to 50 passengers, of which 372 have been delivered since the aircraft entered service 23 years ago. This number includes 89 manufactured in India under licence from British Aerospace and 31 sold to the Royal Air Force in the Andover military version. An improved version of the BAe 749 is in production and continues to be ordered in small numbers; new aircraft have recently been delivered to British Airways and Leeward Islands Air Transport.

BAe 179

British Aerospace is developing an advanced turbo-prop aircraft (ATP) which will have a typical capacity of 64 passengers. The aircraft, which is derived from the successful BAe 749, is designed to be highly fuel efficient and will incorporate new engines with advanced air-bladed propellers. The first flight of the BAe ATP is planned for August 1986.

Guided Weapon Systems

British Aerospace is the main contractor for most of the guided weapon programmes undertaken by the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom. In 1984, the Ministry of Defence accounted for 83 per cent. (87 per cent. in 1983) by value of British Aerospace's total sales of guided weapon systems and other military equipment, with virtually all the balance being for export.

Guided weapon programmes typically extend over many years involving continual evolution. Sales commonly lead to the supply of further missiles and spares, and the provision of training, maintenance and other support activities.

A number of British Aerospace's guided weapon systems were successfully deployed by the Falklands task force.

The principal guided weapon projects being undertaken by British Aerospace are:

Land-Based Anti-Aircraft Missile Systems

British Aerospace's most important guided weapon project is Rapier, a low level surface-to-air missile for use against low-flying aircraft and missiles. It is currently in service with the British Army in both versions and it has also been sold to 12 overseas governments, including Australia and Switzerland and the United States for the defence of its Air Force bases in the United Kingdom. An extensive programme for the continued long-term development of Rapier with Ministry of Defence funding is well advanced. British Aerospace is also developing a further, more advanced version of the missile, which is an advanced and compact, low cost system designed particularly for the export market.

British Aerospace is one of two competing contractors each recently awarded a contract by the Ministry of Defence to undertake a project definition study for a new, close range air defence system using a high velocity missile of advanced design.

Anti-Air Warfare

British Aerospace manufactures under licence the Milan portable medium range anti-tank guided weapon system and has recently completed a pre-development programme (funded jointly with the Ministry of Defence) for a terminally-guided mortar bomb, Merlin, designed to be fired from standard 81mm mortars which are used by many countries. British Aerospace is also developing a new, more powerful, anti-tank guided weapon, which is a new generation of medium and long range anti-tank guided weapons (called 'Trigat') and it is expected that a contract will be placed with BMDG for the development phase. Eight European NATO nations, including the United Kingdom, have already declared their intention to participate in this project.

Naval Missile Systems

British Aerospace's principal naval missile systems are Sea Dart, which provides medium range defence against air and surface threats, and Sea Wolf, which provides a long range anti-air capability, and Sea Vigil, which provides ships with a defence against missiles and also has a shorter range anti-air capability. A new vertical launched version of Sea Wolf is being developed with Ministry of Defence funding and has been selected as the air defence weapon for the Royal Navy's new Type 45 frigates. British Aerospace has recently been awarded a development contract by the Ministry of Defence for a new lightweight launcher that will enable conventional missiles to be fitted to other classes of ships.

Air Missile Systems

British Aerospace has developed a range of air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles. Sky Flash, a medium range air-to-air missile, provides all weather capability against aircraft: it is in service with the Royal Air Force and the Swedish Air Force. Sea Skua, a helicopter-launched air-to-surface missile, is currently in service with the Royal Navy. Sea Eagle is an advanced air-launched anti-ship missile that is in production and will shortly enter service with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. Export orders for Sky Flash, Sea Skua and Sea Eagle have been received. British Aerospace is one of a number of sub-contractors to Bodenewerk Gerätebau GmbH which is producing under licence, in Europe, Sidewinder, a short range air-to-air missile designed for the United States.

British Aerospace is also developing a new generation of air-to-air missiles for the Royal Air Force for use against the radar of surface-to-air missile defence systems. It can be fitted to a variety of aircraft and can be launched from the ground. An advanced short-range air-to-air missile programme (ASRAAM), which is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Germany intended to rationalise their procurement of a family of air-to-air weapons systems, is currently in progress. A number of other countries have expressed interest in participating in this programme. British Aerospace expects ALARM and ASRAAM to have good export potential.

Mines

British Aerospace is a major contractor to the Ministry of Defence for the updating of sea mines and sea mine warfare and possesses considerable expertise in underwater weapons. New concepts of mine include the Sea Urchin, a sophisticated sea-bed mine funded by British Aerospace, and Lammine, a new anti-air weapon for army use in respect of which it has completed a project definition study for the Ministry of Defence.

Space and Communications Systems

British Aerospace is the prime contractor for two series of communication satellites for the European Space Agency (ESA) being built by a team of European aerospace companies. The first series, MARECS, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The second series, MARECS II, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The third series, MARECS III, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fourth series, MARECS IV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifth series, MARECS V, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixth series, MARECS VI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventh series, MARECS VII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The eighth series, MARECS VIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The ninth series, MARECS IX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The tenth series, MARECS X, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The eleventh series, MARECS XI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twelfth series, MARECS XII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirteenth series, MARECS XIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fourteenth series, MARECS XIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifteenth series, MARECS XV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixteenth series, MARECS XVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventeenth series, MARECS XVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The eighteenth series, MARECS XVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The nineteenth series, MARECS XIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twentieth series, MARECS XX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-first series, MARECS XXI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-second series, MARECS XXII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-third series, MARECS XXIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-fourth series, MARECS XXIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-fifth series, MARECS XXV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-sixth series, MARECS XXVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-seventh series, MARECS XXVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-eighth series, MARECS XXVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The twenty-ninth series, MARECS XXIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirtieth series, MARECS XXX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-first series, MARECS XXXI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-second series, MARECS XXXII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-third series, MARECS XXXIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-fourth series, MARECS XXXIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-fifth series, MARECS XXXV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-sixth series, MARECS XXXVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-seventh series, MARECS XXXVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-eighth series, MARECS XXXVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The thirty-ninth series, MARECS XXXIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fortieth series, MARECS XL, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-first series, MARECS XLI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-second series, MARECS XLII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-third series, MARECS XLIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-fourth series, MARECS XLIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-fifth series, MARECS XLV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-sixth series, MARECS XLVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-seventh series, MARECS XLVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-eighth series, MARECS XLVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The forty-ninth series, MARECS XLIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fiftieth series, MARECS L, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-first series, MARECS LI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-second series, MARECS LII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-third series, MARECS LIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-fourth series, MARECS LIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-fifth series, MARECS LV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-sixth series, MARECS LVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-seventh series, MARECS LVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-eighth series, MARECS LVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The fifty-ninth series, MARECS LVIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixtieth series, MARECS LX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-first series, MARECS LXI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-second series, MARECS LXII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-third series, MARECS LXIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-fourth series, MARECS LXIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-fifth series, MARECS LXV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-sixth series, MARECS LXVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-seventh series, MARECS LXVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-eighth series, MARECS LXVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The sixty-ninth series, MARECS LXIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventieth series, MARECS LXX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventy-first series, MARECS LXXI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventy-second series, MARECS LXXII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventy-third series, MARECS LXXIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventy-fourth series, MARECS LXXIV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The seventy-fifth series, MARECS LXXV, is a geostationary communications satellite system. 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The ninety-sixth series, MARECS LXXXVI, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The ninety-seventh series, MARECS LXXXVII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The ninety-eighth series, MARECS LXXXVIII, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The ninety-ninth series, MARECS LXXXIX, is a geostationary communications satellite system. The hundredth series, MARECS LXXX, is a geostationary communications satellite system.

In the United States, together with the strength of the dollar relative to sterling, resulted in an increase in interest payable as compared with 1983. In contrast, interest receivable and income from Government securities was marginally lower reflecting lower interest rates in the United Kingdom.

Profit before taxation at £212.2 million was 48 per cent above the 1983 level of £282.3 million. Taxation for the year amounted to £122.2 million (1983: nil) which largely represents advance corporation tax on dividends, resulting in profit after taxation of £100.0 million (1983: £282.3 million). In 1983, the tax charge was offset by the release of prior year tax provisions.

The Company benefited from a net cash inflow of £55.3 million during the year with net liquid assets exceeding gross loans by £21.6 million at the year end, the notwithstanding, approximately £230 million was invested by the Company on fixed assets, inventories and research and development during the year.

At 31st December 1984, the Company's order book stood at £4,820 million. This was slightly lower than the corresponding figure of £4,807 million for 1983.

The Board has proposed a final dividend in respect of the year ended 31st December 1984 of 8.4p per Ordinary Share which will bring the total dividend paid for 1984 to 13.65p per Ordinary Share (1983: 10.65p) compared with 9.1p (1982: 8.65p) for 1983.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Military Aircraft

The Board believes that British Aerospace's wide range of military aircraft projects, including the Tornado, Harrier and Hawk, as well as the collaborative nature of a number of these projects, puts it in a good position to achieve further significant orders. In particular, vigorous efforts are being made to export the Tornado. While the Board is confident of the Company's ability to achieve export orders for its military aircraft, competition is very strong and the level of support provided by HM Government (particularly in the provision of export credit guarantee facilities relative to those offered by competing countries) will be an important factor.

The decision on, and timing of, a new fighter aircraft for the Royal Air Force will be of major long term importance for British Aerospace's military aircraft activities. The Defence Ministers of five nations, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, have agreed in principle on the need to develop and produce jointly a new European Fighter Aircraft (EFA). Force's need to replace its Phantom and Jaguar aircraft in the 1990s. British Aerospace and industrial partners, including Aeritalia and German equipment companies, to consolidate British Aerospace's fighter aircraft technology. The Board considers it is important to the future of British Aerospace's military capability that decisions are taken by the relevant Government in the near future in order that design and manufacturing capacity may be maintained as the Tornado programme runs down in the late 1980s.

Guided Weapons Systems

The prospects for the guided weapons business look most encouraging and this area of business is expected to continue to make a substantial and increasing contribution to profits. British Aerospace is developing and producing a number of new systems which have good export potential, with Sea Eagle, ASRAAM and ALARM being important examples. British Aerospace has a wide spread of product lines, and the highly successful Rapier programme and its development are expected to continue to be the Company's most important guided weapon project for many years.

Civil Aircraft

The Board believes that the long term outlook in the civil aircraft market is good. There is a very encouraging demand for Jetstream 31. However, the upturn in demand for larger aircraft, in particular, has been slower than anticipated, the generally weak state of airlines financial position worldwide being one of the principal causes. There are, however, signs of improvement in the financial health of a number of airlines which should be of benefit, although this trend cannot be expected to have any favourable impact on the Company's results in the short term.

More generally, bearing in mind the financial risks associated with developing civil aircraft, the Board will continue to keep under close review the Company's exposure to civil aircraft projects. The Board believes that the long term outlook for the Company's civil aircraft programmes, the Board considers it unlikely that the Company would embark on any major new civil aircraft project in the foreseeable future without HM Government launch aid.

The Airbus programme, together with the A310, will have a substantial effect on British Aerospace's results for many years. Fierce competition is being experienced in these programmes, with the Airbus A310 being the prime focus of attention. The Board believes that the long term outlook for the Airbus programme is good, but in the longer term believes that British Aerospace has the right range of aircraft to benefit from the large civil market expected to be available and that civil aircraft will provide an important and growing source of turnover and profits.

Space and Communications Systems

British Aerospace has made a substantial investment in space and communications systems since it believes this to be an important and growing market. This has had an adverse impact on the results of the Company for the last two years whilst it has been establishing itself as a leading supplier. The selection of the British Aerospace led consortium by Inmarsat for its new generation of maritime satellites is an encouraging recent development. In addition, the importance of military satellites is likely to increase, the Company, which is one of the largest space contractors outside the United States, is now well placed to compete for new business and the Board believes that the long term prospects for these activities are good.

Electronics and Other Systems

The Company has considerable expertise in electronics, which are an integral part of its business. In addition, many electronics projects are being pursued as businesses in their own right, including radar, laser gyros, automated message handling, advanced optical processes and infrared systems, together with the "Tech Activities" referred to in the Business of British Aerospace, these and other areas of the Company's fastest growing business areas and may be further expanded by suitable acquisitions.

HM Government Policies

The Board of British Aerospace fully accepts the Ministry of Defence's new policies of encouraging greater competition amongst suppliers, of maximising the export potential of United Kingdom defence programmes and of promoting cost competition. One aspect of these policies may result in the increased importance of fixed price contracts (rather than cost plus contracts) which the Company has itself advocated in all appropriate cases. The Board is concerned that these policies, and particularly the rules of competition, should be fairly applied, and seen to be so, subject to which the Board believes the policies should give British Aerospace the opportunity of expanding its military business further and of improving profitability. The Board is also concerned that these policies should not result in unreasonable delays in the placing of a number of contracts which are important to British Aerospace and to the Board's position in the national interest and that account is taken of the importance of maintaining British Aerospace's all round weapon systems capability, which is unique amongst United Kingdom manufacturers.

The Company welcomes the announcement made by HM Government on 4th April 1985 regarding the future of the airport at Farnborough (where Jetstream 31 is manufactured), which should ensure the continued availability of the aircraft for use by British Aerospace for some years ahead.

General

British Aerospace's wide range of products with their differing business cycles and cash flow characteristics are a major strength. The military business is continuing to generate strong cash flow which is helping to finance British Aerospace's investment in civilian and space. The overall financial position of the Company is strong. Currently, the Company has no new borrowings and net assets of over £200 million. The raising of an additional £187.5 million of equity by the issue of new Ordinary Shares under the Offer further strengthens the Company's position.

In considering the profits earned by British Aerospace in any year, it must be borne in mind that they are derived mainly from long term projects, typically with lives of 15 years or more, whose profitability varies according to the exchange rate of the pound sterling. Over the medium term, the major civil aircraft projects are for the most part at relatively early stages when heavy costs are incurred with significant profits only expected in the later years of the project. The Board is confident that the longer term outlook for these civil aircraft projects is good but, as indicated under "Civil Aircraft" above, the upturn in demand for larger aircraft, in particular, has been slower than anticipated. Against this background, the Board considers it prudent to be cautious about the short term profit outlook for the Company.

The Board remains committed to its policy of greater efficiency by reducing costs, improving productivity and matching production and other resources to market demands. There remains scope within the Company to improve efficiency, and the United Kingdom inflation rate, the relative sterling/US dollar rate of exchange and the balance of payments position relative to the United States and Japan will also be particularly important factors in influencing the Company's profitability and competitiveness.

The Board believes that the Company is well placed to take advantage of the opportunities that the markets will provide in the years ahead and, overall, is confident that the long term profit growth potential for British Aerospace is good.

Statement of Source and Application of Funds

The consolidated statement of source and application of funds of British Aerospace based on its published audited accounts for the five years to 31st December 1984 are as follows:

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Source of funds:					
Profit/(Loss) before taxation	282.3	20.8	(21.2)	28.3	120.2
Adjustments for items not involving the movement of funds:					
Depreciation	24.4	26.6	36.9	45.9	61.2
Revaluation of provision in respect of civil aircraft programmes	26.6	37.3	700.0	68.6	(28.0)
Provisions and other	26.6	37.3	700.0	68.6	(28.0)
Funds from operations	359.9	122.7	1014.7	138.6	146.4
Use of funds:					
Dividends paid	106.8	26.4	194.3	194.4	145.4

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Application of funds:					
Net additions to fixed assets	57.3	68.9	35.9	61.8	78.3
Net additions to current assets	1.9	3.3	2.2	6.3	2.7
Dividends paid	106.8	26.4	194.3	194.4	145.4
Other	55.6	97.9	114.5	55.9	128.2

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Changes in working capital:					
Stocks	130.0	178.4	145.2	178.2	208.8
Debtors	100.9	77.1	81.1	80.0	68.0
Creditors	(100.9)	(77.1)	(81.1)	(80.0)	(68.0)
Advances	(146.5)	(22.4)	(11.2)	(36.0)	(72.8)
Other	34.7	131.1	136.8	133.3	(35.0)
Total application of funds	50.5	200.0	260.8	278.7	301.8
Movement in net liquid assets and loans	15.3	(13.9)	(88.7)	(2.3)	65.6

Included in the application of funds for 1983 is £10 million relating to the acquisition of the Gyrojet Division of Space Limited, £20 million of which was in respect of fixed assets, patents, trademarks and know-how and £10 million in respect of working capital.

Principal Accounting Policies

- Trading Profit**
Trading profit is taken at the time of sale in the case of contracts with extended delivery programmes. It is arrived at by reference to the estimated overall profitability. Profit provision is made for any losses in the year in which they are incurred.
- Research and Development**
Expenditure on research and development, other than that on buildings or specifically identifiable work under contract, is written off as incurred and charged in the year in which it is incurred.
- Leasing Costs**
The cost of financing a new civil aircraft project falls into three principal categories: design and development, fit and test, and education.
Design and development expenditure is incurred in the early years of a project and, with the exception of the A310 programme, is written off as incurred under the heading of research and development. The cost of fit and test expenditure is charged to the A310 programme as incurred. The cost of education expenditure is charged to the A310 programme as incurred. The cost of education expenditure is charged to the A310 programme as incurred. The cost of education expenditure is charged to the A310 programme as incurred.
- Stocks**
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost (including all relevant overhead expenditure) and net realisable value. The cost of stocks is determined by the weighted average method. Stocks include inventory costs incurred and the Company's share of the cost of stocks.
- Debtors**
Debtors are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of debtors is determined by the weighted average method. Debtors include inventory costs incurred and the Company's share of the cost of debtors.
- Creditors**
Creditors are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of creditors is determined by the weighted average method. Creditors include inventory costs incurred and the Company's share of the cost of creditors.
- Advances**
Advances are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of advances is determined by the weighted average method. Advances include inventory costs incurred and the Company's share of the cost of advances.

Notes

1. The design and development element of launching costs, other than on the A310 programme, has been written off in accordance with the accounting policy set out above.

2. Provision principally relates to advance expenditure for written off. No charge arose in 1984 because of prior year adjustments. No maintenance expenditure for the year has been written off. No maintenance expenditure for the year has been written off.

3. The A310 programme is a long term project. The cost of the programme is expected to be completed by the end of 1985. The cost of the programme is expected to be completed by the end of 1985.

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(1) At the Annual General Meeting on 14th May 1985, the Directors will be seeking the approval of the Company's shareholders to the introduction of the Executive Share Option Scheme (the "Scheme"). The Scheme is to be approved by the shareholders at their discretion and will be subject to the approval of the Financial Review Committee. The Scheme is to be approved by the shareholders at their discretion and will be subject to the approval of the Financial Review Committee. The Scheme is to be approved by the shareholders at their discretion and will be subject to the approval of the Financial Review Committee.

Summary of Rights Relating to the Offered Ordinary Shares

The Offered Ordinary Shares, which will be issued by the Company, will be subject to the same rights as the existing issued Ordinary Shares.

The new Ordinary Shares are being offered for subscription by the Company whereas the Ordinary Shares are issued for sale by HM Government. The new Ordinary Shares will be subject to the same rights as the existing issued Ordinary Shares. The new Ordinary Shares are being offered for subscription by the Company whereas the Ordinary Shares are issued for sale by HM Government. The new Ordinary Shares will be subject to the same rights as the existing issued Ordinary Shares.

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WINNING HIS WINGS Rory Underwood, who has begun to fulfil his promise
David Frost reviews a season of key decisions off the field

World Cup snatches limelight from Irish

RUGBY UNION

WHILE Ireland's winning of the Five Nations Championship and the Wallabies' first Grand Slam were very fine achievements, the most influential happenings of the season took place behind the scenes, such as the International Board's decision to stage the game's first World Cup and the RFU's decision to institute a new Divisional Championship.

Over the years various entrepreneurs had formed plans for holding a World Cup and most of the players' representatives were in favour of such a competition. But the IRB, had consistently turned down the idea. The breakthrough came last year when the IRB authorised Australia and New Zealand to make a feasibility study.

The IRB accepted their proposal in March, and it was announced that the first World Cup would take place in 1987, simultaneously in Australia and New Zealand. All the eight countries who comprised the IRB agreed in principle to take part.

There could be no truly representative World Cup without the participation of South Africa because, in defeating England 68-16, and in the tests at Port Elizabeth and in Durban last summer, the Springboks proved they are still one of the top rugby nations. At the moment, however, the governments of Australia and New Zealand would not allow South Africa to play in their country.

It had been felt this might cause South African representatives at the IRB to vote against the World Cup. Danie Craven, however, said that even if political considerations ruled out the participation of South Africa,

the competition would still have his support. "I would not wish to spoil other people's sport," he said.

The World Cup is expected to take place in June, 1987, a month reasonably convenient for players from both hemispheres. Sixteen countries are expected to be invited, and this will present a great opportunity for some of the less well established rugby countries to show their true powers.

Just as the World Cup will stimulate interest in the game worldwide and help improve standards, so English rugby should benefit from the Divisional Championship. The general level of English club rugby is so low that it has been unrealistic to expect players to leap straight into the international arena.

What has been badly needed is a top-level competition to bridge the gap between club and international rugby. The new Divisional Championship, in which the four regions of England will do battle over a period of three weeks, will allow the top 60-odd players to prepare themselves properly.

It is a great pity that the recommendation of the 1981 Burgess Report (into the future structure of the game), that there should be a worldwide system of club leagues, was rejected by the RFU. Instead, the RFU this season allowed 24 leading clubs to split themselves into two national merit tables. This decision has understandably upset people in Yorkshire, whose objection to the RFU to the RFU's own proposal for similar national merit tables, was carried.

It is clear the mood of the country is against merit tables. They are self-perpetuating, and the only way of getting into them is by having fixtures with two

thirds of the established clubs, and of course, the granting of such fixtures is in the hands of those very clubs.

Merit tables are also unsatisfactory because not every club in a table plays every other club in the table. There cannot be much pride in winning a table if you have not played against everyone else. This is why properly constituted leagues, as in Scotland, in which every club plays everyone else and in which there is promotion and relegation. The sooner the RFU implements all the recommendations of the Burgess Report, the sooner the standard of English rugby will rise.

On the field, Ireland, winning the Five Nations and the Triple Crown, showed what could be done with a fresh spirit of attack inspired by a new coach, Mick Doyle, and by Clarm Fitzgerald as captain.

France, the favourites, were disappointed. Wales, without much difficulty, but could manage only draws with England and Ireland. Against England, they failed largely because Patrick Estève failed to touch the ball down quickly when over the line near the posts, and against Ireland they retaliated with Irish ferocity with four penalties which cost them five penalties.

At least the French brought an innovation to the championship, use of their scrum-half, Jerome Gallion, to throw the ball into line-outs while their hooker and captain, Philippe Dumas, waited in the scrum-half position.

The championship, as a whole, was not an outstanding success, but it was encouraging to see so many promising young players setting in England could point to Nigel Melville, Rob Andrew, Kevin Simms, and Rory Underwood as young players with exciting futures.

NEWMARKET

2 00 Gwydion 3 40 Iium (nb)
2 35 Mezzad 4 10 Northern Aspen
3 05 ILTON MOOR (nap) 4 40 Great Northern
5 10 Positive

JACKPOT & PLACEPOT: FIRST SIX RACES
(ROWLEY MILK COURSE)
DRAW: No significant advantage
* DENOTES BLINDINGS. GOING: Good to Firm.

2 0 - E. F. WILKINSON MAIDEN STAKES: 3-Y-O; 5f; £3,000 (9 runners).
401 (2) 5 ABSOLUTE SERVICE (I. J. Blakey) (Hague) 0. R. Stubb
402 (6) 10 ATTITUDE (T. C. C. W. O'Brien) 0.11
403 (10) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
404 (14) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
405 (18) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
406 (22) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
407 (26) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
408 (30) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
409 (34) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
410 (38) 10 GADGALIA MOU (M. A. Mullins) 0.11
1984: Lady Diana 2-11; 1st: 5f; 2nd: 5f; 3rd: 5f; 4th: 5f; 5th: 5f; 6th: 5f; 7th: 5f; 8th: 5f; 9th: 5f; 10th: 5f.
Setting: 4-5 Gwydion, 5 Foca, 6 Attitude, 10 Absolute Service, New Edition, 12 Mollie.

2 35 - ARLINGTON STAKES: 2-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (4 runners).
202 (3) 10 CONCENTRIC (M. P. Vasey) W. O'Brien 0-11
203 (10) 10 CONCENTRIC (M. P. Vasey) W. O'Brien 0-11
204 (17) 10 CONCENTRIC (M. P. Vasey) W. O'Brien 0-11
205 (24) 10 CONCENTRIC (M. P. Vasey) W. O'Brien 0-11
1984: Clansman 9-0 W. R. Swales 2-1 M. Stote 5 m.
Setting: 4-5 Mezzad, 3 Concentric, 5 Nicolo Polo, 7 Herb Robert.

3 05 - ELY HANDICAP: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,750 (18 runners).
301 (1) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
302 (2) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
303 (3) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
304 (4) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
305 (5) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
306 (6) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
307 (7) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
308 (8) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
309 (9) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
310 (10) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
311 (11) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
312 (12) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
313 (13) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
314 (14) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
315 (15) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
316 (16) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
317 (17) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
318 (18) 2210-0 STAR VIOLET (W. Best) M. McCann 0-7
1984: Miami Price 7-9 T. Olin 9-1 P. Cole 16 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Foca, 5 Foca, 6 The Anstey, 7 Star View.
TOP FORM TIPS: 11m Mar 8, 12m Mar 8, 13m Mar 8.

3 40 - BUCKEY CLUB STAKES: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,750 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

4 10 - PRETTY POLLY STAKES: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

4 40 - BUNNELL HANDICAP: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (11 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 10 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 40 - BUNNELL HANDICAP: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (11 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 70 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 100 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 130 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 160 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 190 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 220 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 250 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 280 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 310 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 340 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 370 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
408 (8) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
409 (9) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
1984: Say Lamer 4-7 G. Baker 8-1 R. Helle 6 m.
Midweek: 4-5 Clansman, 5 Clansman, 6 Clansman, 7 Clansman, 8 Clansman, 9 Clansman.
TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

5 400 - NEWBERRY CHALLENGE: 3-Y-O; 5f; £2,500 (9 runners).
401 (1) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
402 (2) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
403 (3) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
404 (4) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
405 (5) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
406 (6) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
407 (7) 1000-0 OLD COUNTRY (O. O'Brien) 0-11
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TOP FORM TIPS: Clansman 10, Clansman 11, Clansman 12.

It was oh so close for Cecil's Oh So Sharp

D RACING

Richard Baerlein

The 2-1 favourite, Oh So Sharp, the middle leg of a treble for her owner, gave Sheikh Mohammed his first classic winner in a most dramatic finish to the 1,000 Guineas sponsored by General Accident at Newmarket yesterday.

Steve Cauthen, who won the 2,000 Guineas on Tap On Wood soon after he arrived in this country when he beat Kris, the sire of Oh So Sharp, has never ridden better as he gradually made up an incredible six lengths on Al Bahathi and Bella Colera from the Dip.

Just when Al Bahathi seemed to have the upper hand as they went into the Dip, Bella Colera fought back so that neither of them could have won with 100 yards to go. Suddenly, from what seemed a hopeless position, a furlong out, Oh So Sharp began to rise rapidly as she met the rising ground, joining the other two on the post.

There was a considerable difference of opinion as to which had won. The judge announced Oh So Sharp as the winner but demanded another point before he could separate the second and third. The final verdict was Al Bahathi second and Bella Colera third.

The French ally, Vilkaia, who began a run at the same time, was in the Derby and the Oaks and many other races. Cecil said she will stay at least one and a quarter miles and needs time to think about her next objective.

The stable companions, Aviance and Triptech, it appeared that when the latter edged right she seemed to slightly hamper Oh So Sharp, but Cauthen made nothing of it.

Oh So Sharp and Al Bahathi were two of the fastest two-year-olds of last season.

Sheikh Mohammed's great day began when Corridor Key.

hence they dominated the ante-post market throughout the winter. Al Bahathi drifted to 11-1 after being beaten at Newbury two weeks ago but the rider admitted that he made a tactical error. They have both retained their form remarkably well.

Lester Piggett certainly knew what he was doing when sticking to Bella Colera after being beaten narrowly by Oh So Sharp a fortnight ago. This was almost a repeat of that race. Michael Stoute's second string, Dafayna, who Walter Swinburn would have ridden in preference to Bella Colera, was never in the race.

Cauthen said after his brilliant performance: "The other two wanted to bust me. I always thought I would get there in the end, but it took longer than I expected."

Those who had taken longer odds about his mount certainly did not share the rider's confidence at any stage of the race until the last strides when she beat 1.05 seconds outside the record.

Trainer Henry Cecil, joked after the race. This will help pay the 22,000 Jockey Club fine imposed on me yesterday. Cecil's two previous winners of the 1,000 Guineas, One in a Million and Fairy Footsteps, have like yesterday's winner, won the Nell Gwynn Stakes as their preliminary. Oh So Sharp is now the unbeaten winner of £132,225 after five races and her future is undecided. She is in the Derby and the Oaks and many other races. Cecil said she will stay at least one and a quarter miles and needs time to think about her next objective.

As all the big doubles concern only Oh So Sharp with Shaded and Balra in the 2,000 Guineas, the Shaded odds are now 4-7 with the Totie, 8-11 with Labrooks and 9-11 with Eliza. There is no guarantee that Hills will remain so generous for long this morning.

Sheikh Mohammed's great day began when Corridor Key.

Spanish fear Basque bombing campaign

From Jane Walker in Madrid and Paul Keel

THE SPANISH authorities fear that the Basque terrorist group, ETA, may have signalled the start of a bombing campaign along the Costa Blanca with two explosions on Wednesday night in Benidorm and near Valencia.

However, officials believe that the group is intent only on commercial damage and insist that British holiday makers should not be discouraged.

"It seems they are not to maim or kill, but merely to upset the tourist," said Mr Octavio Cabezas, the civil governor of Alicante yesterday.

A spokesman for Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest tour company, said yesterday that it was taking advice from the Foreign Office.

The first bomb in Benidorm which exploded at 9.30 pm in the sand on the popular Levante Beach. At the time, the beach was deserted, although a nearby promenade was crowded.

The blast happened outside the four star 190 room Costablanca Hotel where a spokesman said yesterday: "There was a loud bang, but not even a window was broken."

The second bomb caused slight damage to an outside terrace bar of a five star hotel near Valencia shortly before midnight. The bar was closed and there were no injuries.

Police, who had already been placed on full alert, stepped up their patrols and searched hotels and public places. A telephone call yesterday warned of another bomb in the main bus station in Alicante, but nothing was found.

The tourist authorities are worried by the possibilities of cancellations. The 1985 season has already threatened to be one of the worst in Spain for many years, with bookings down by as much as 40 per cent.

Leader of Cabinet wets raises Macleod doctrine of one nation

Walker renews attack on PM's economic policy

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet's most unrepentant wet, Mr Peter Walker, last night questioned again the social values of Mrs Thatcher's Government and called for fundamental changes in its approach to the economy.

The energy secretary's attack was indirect, as usual, but he used the Iain Macleod lecture at the Cambridge Union to reassert his own view of traditional Toryism and to contrast it implicitly with the attitudes of many of his ministerial colleagues.

His assault on free market economics was, however, undisciplined. He preferred Keynes to Friedman, he said, and said that though the market economy idolised people as consumers, people were more than just consumers.

The attack on unemployment could be pursued more vigorously, he indicated, and delivered a rebuke to colleagues who have talked of the main area of growth for new jobs as the service sector. Manufacturing still had a major part to play.

Mr Walker also picked up the theme of oil revenues, and said that if such an energy resource had been possessed by Japan and Germany or France, they would have exploited it on an international scale and would have brought vast benefits to their economies.

Nowhere in the speech was Mrs Thatcher mentioned by name, and it appeared that the energy secretary's evocation of the spirit of Mr Macleod was intended as a critical commentary on the government's present state.

He ended by recalling the words of Mr Macleod in facing a pre-arranged Tory conference in which he hoped for humility and compassion from his party. These, said Mr Walker, should be the priorities of any Tory.

The impact of his speech will be heightened by yesterday's record unemployment figures and the expected Tory losses in the shire county elections, and will be seen by backbench wets concerned at the thrust of government policy as a signal that Mr Walker still intends to play the role of their defender in the Cabinet.

His method — a familiar one in the extraparlimentary speeches which he usually employs to raise his "one nation" banner — was to take quotations from Mr Macleod, the former chancellor, and use them to portray a traditional Toryism which had now gone: "Tolerance and understanding for everyone," "compassion as well as competition," "humility as well as efficiency."

He quoted from Mr Macleod: "The Tory Party is and must always remain the natural spokesman for those who are underdefended."

Such a position, he made clear, could not be achieved without more successful commercial greatness, and he praised privatisation schemes and went on to argue for new international arrangements to control exchange rates and to tackle urgently the problem of third world debt.

They were proposals familiar to students of the recent speeches of Mr Edward Heath, and Mr Walker continued with another familiar claim of the wets — that a significant fall in unemployment could be achieved by government-led schemes — for example, in the renewal of decaying housing stock.

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FIRST LADY FIRST: President Reagan and West German president Richard von Weizsäcker direct Mrs Nancy Reagan into position for photographs in Bonn.

Reagan wins French support for trade liberalisation moves

Continued from page one

ment, their foreign and finance ministers, and hundreds of aides were shuttled around the city by limousine and helicopter. One official described it as an unprecedented show of security, following recent bombings and terrorist threats in European capitals.

Around 10,000 police were on highly visible duty, as were 3,900 journalists busily scurrying around government buildings and the baroque gathering places of the mighty.

Moored alongside the summit cantonment were five large Rhine pleasure boats — home for the duration to a record American contingent of reporters. For them and for their German hosts,

the summit itself is but a prelude to the main theme of President Reagan's week-end progress round Belsen concentration camp and the Bitburg cemetery, with its contingent of 55 war graves.

State Department officials spent much of yesterday fending off unfriendly questions on the Bitburg visit, and on President Reagan's announcement of a total boycott on Nicaraguan trade.

Another of yesterday's themes, which is expected to sound even more loudly when the summiters get down to serious business today, is the US Space Defence Initiative — the so-called Star Wars project.

Here again the French appear to be standing out of the pack, insisting that they do not intend to re-examine their own strategic policy.

The US Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, said after President Reagan's first round of bilateral talks: "It is clear that everyone supports the importance of doing this research work. Some want to participate in it, and others are studying it. Some probably won't take part. But as to the importance of the research itself, there is no doubt in anyone's mind."

He said that President Mitterrand shared the sense of importance, but there had been no indication so far that France was prepared to join in the research work.

On the economic front, a senior American official dismissed speculation that President Reagan was pressing for tax cuts as a form of old-fashioned stimulus to the sluggish economies.

Our impression is that we are not expected to take part. We have not come under any pressure from the Americans on this," he said.

A German spokesman said his government was told in advance of the boycott, which was announced here just after President Reagan arrived. He said that there would be no response in Bonn "until we know in detail why the Americans acted."

German officials, however, have left no doubt that the Government here strongly disapproves of trade sanctions in general.

Mr Shultz emphasised that any miner could apply, although whether he would be accepted depended on the needs of the coal industry. The scheme is seen unofficially as best applied to miners under 50.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, the MSC chairman, said that he hoped most retrained miners would get skilled jobs in other industries. The present joblessness rate of people on skilled courses is 50 per cent and rising, according to the MSC.

Michael Parks added: Nearly 2,000 miners at two Yorkshire collieries were still on strike yesterday, over the sacking of four miners for intimidation during the strike.

Pickets at South Kirkby and Ferrybridge ridings pits near Pontefract allowed deputies to cross their lines yesterday, after the coal board had warned the NUM that it would not be able to maintain safety standards without their help.

Derbyshire's suspended fire chief, Mr Trevor Stevin, aged 43, was fined £180 and banned from driving for 14 months yesterday for driving with excess alcohol in his blood.

Willis blames 'ruthless' NCB for closures

By Keith Harper and Paul Houldland

The National Coal Board was reneging on its agreement to consult mining unions before closing pits, Mr Norman Willis, the NCB general secretary, said last night.

It has refused to give an undertaking to unions that it will consult them in advance of any pit closure. This policy could be adopted until the end of June, while the NCB continues its assessment of the impact of the miners' strike on individual pits.

At the Wales TUC in Tenby, Dyfed, Mr Willis said that since the strike ended without an agreement, the coal board had exploited its advantage ruthlessly.

In a step of which the old South Wales private coal owners would have been proud, the Bedwas colliery was closed without the colliery review procedure — old or new — being used. So was Frances colliery in Scotland.

The board had temporarily suspended agreements with the unions while it was assessing the state of individual collieries, he said. "In reality, this means that the board considers that it is absolutely free to close pits and declare redundancies in the immediate future."

"Only when it has got what it wants in terms of closures and job losses will it revert to operating within the framework of agreements for the industry."

The NCB's tactics went far beyond breaching the spirit of nationalisation, Mr Willis said. The breach of promise made to the supervisors' union, NACS, which had accepted the offer of a modified colliery review procedure, was disgraceful and dishonourable conduct. Even the Prime Minister had called the agreement sacrosanct.

Representatives of the NUM, NACS and the colliery managers said last night that they had threatened to walk out of a meeting with Mr Merrick Spanton, the NCB's member for personnel, because he refused to give any guarantee that pit closures would be put into the existing review procedure while current problems exist.

NCB sources agreed last night that talks on a new colliery review procedure were not going well and that a further meeting would be held next week at the insistence of the unions.

Mr Spanton announced a £10 million agreement with the Manpower Services Commission for the re-training of up to 10,000 miners for skilled jobs over the next three years.

Under the contract, NCB staff who take voluntary redundancy will be offered re-training at Skillscentres. It could cover engineering and electronics, but there is particular emphasis on new technology.

Mr Spanton emphasised that any miner could apply, although whether he would be accepted depended on the needs of the coal industry. The scheme is seen unofficially as best applied to miners under 50.

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Go-ahead for BP's beauty spot oilfield

By Paul Brown

Plans to sink four test oil wells in an area of outstanding natural beauty in the middle of Poole Harbour, Dorset, will go ahead despite the Department of Environment's failure to consider the matter under new guidelines.

Conservation groups said that the decision was "outrageous" and made a mockery of the Government's claim to be concerned about the environment.

The drilling is part of BP's plans to increase production on its Wytech Farm oilfield from 4,000 to 40,000 barrels a day making it the largest on shore oil field in Europe. If the reserves live up to computer predictions, the company hopes to sink up to 30 oil wells on Furse, a rate of one an acre.

A number of conservation groups had written to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, asking him to intervene after Dorset County Council gave planning permission on April 13. Miss Nicola Frank from the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said the site was designated of outstanding natural beauty, was of special scientific interest and was part of the Dorset Heritage Coast.

On all those grounds it came within the department's new rules on "exceptional circumstances" where such applications would be called in. The department had simply ignored its own guidelines.

Mr Charles Secrott of Friends of the Earth said: "The decision is obviously outrageous. For a site of national importance not to be called in makes a mockery of any concern the department claims, and their new guidelines."

Patrick Jenkin has abrogated his responsibility as a Government minister. He should be balancing national priorities between conservation and exploitation of resources but quite simply he does not care.

He added: "If he does not interfere here, one is entitled to ask where he will intervene. Is anywhere safe?"

A department spokesman said that the country had considered the matter carefully. It was always open to people to make representations to Mr Jenkin but he did not intend to intervene at this stage. It would be considered again if planning permission was sought for new wells.

Garnett to be adopted by TGWU

Leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union are to adopt the main recommendations made by the Garnett inquiry into allegations of ballot rigging. Some have already been put into effect in the re-run ballot for a new general secretary.

Mr Moss Evans, the retiring general secretary, said last night: "Following publication of John Garnett's report, we have today confirmed to him that his recommendations are being adopted, as they in no way impinge on the union's rules which govern the union's electoral procedures. Indeed some had been put into operation for the repeat ballot in advance of his report."

The union's objective will be to demonstrate, clearly, that the repeat ballot is widely publicised and conducted in a proper and fair manner which will place it beyond any criticism from whatever source."

More cards to play, page 4

Cubans leave Nicaragua as Contras regroup

Continued from page one

if they were ever asked to do so. At the end he shouted: "Long live the Nicaraguan revolution, free homeland or death!"

The Nicaraguan Defence Minister, Mr Humberto Ortega, delivered a defiant speech at the parade — from which the public were excluded — reasserting that the Government would sever all military links with foreign countries within the context of a regional peace agreement.

"Reagan should understand that we have not repented one millimetre in our relations with Cuba... we will never say: 'Yes, Uncle Sam,' he said."

There are believed to be another 700 Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua and as many as 6,000 more Cubans working in health, education, construction and other aid projects.

Reports that the Contras were moving back to the attack emerged yesterday from Honduras where rebel leaders said that some 5,000 to 6,000 guerrillas had moved out of their camps. It was claimed that the

insurgents had been able to buy new battlefield equipment with funds obtained from undisclosed sources several weeks before the congressional rejection of President Reagan's appeal for \$14 million to help.

US diplomats cautioned, however, that some of the guerrillas might have simply dispersed to other camps without actually leaving Honduras. Observers were also attributing claims of a new offensive to attempts by the main rebel group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, to put the best face possible on the defeat in Congress.

The US Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, with Mr Reagan in Bonn

for the economic summit, indicated that the US would make at least tentative efforts to enlist the support of its allies for the boycott of Nicaragua.

"Sanctions are more effective in them, so we'd like to see broad participation," he said. Acknowledging the lack of enthusiasm in Germany for a general boycott, he added: "We're not conducting a major campaign to that effect."

The British and German governments have already quietly distanced themselves from the US action. One British official said the trade sanctions were entirely a matter for the Americans and Nicaraguans.

Our impression is that we are not expected to take part. We have not come under any pressure from the Americans on this," he said.

A German spokesman said his government was told in advance of the boycott, which was announced here just after President Reagan arrived. He said that there would be no response in Bonn "until we know in detail why the Americans acted."

German officials, however, have left no doubt that the Government here strongly disapproves of trade sanctions in general.

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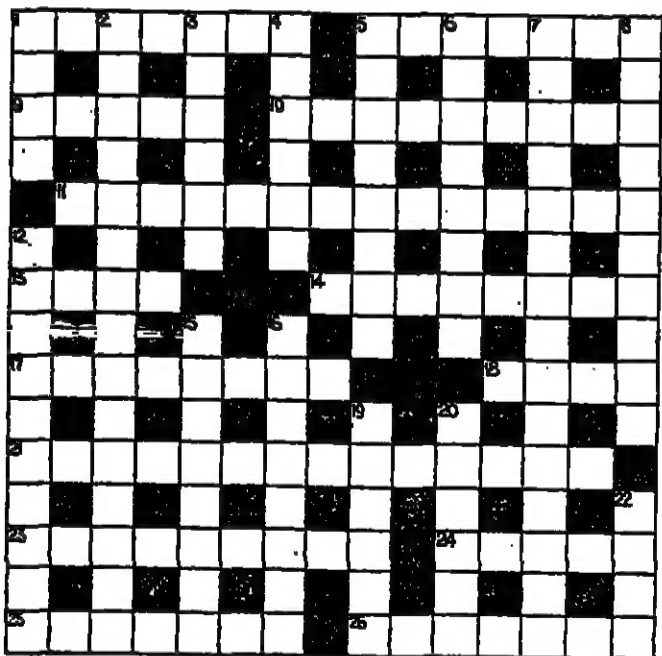
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GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,226

CUSTOS



- ACROSS
- 1 Drink on excursion causes one to fall (5, 2)
 - 5 I've lost a member, a member with post place on golf-links (7)
 - 9 Quietly crave for the black stuff (6)
 - 10 Botanical tree-garden produced tamarind, initially, with wake-robin about (9)
 - 11 Individual drunkards on call, sort of (6-2-6)
 - 13 Enid, having lost weight, follows one with skill (4)
 - 14 Member of audience set out in a ship (8)
 - 17 Stories circulating about unanswerable questions (8)
 - 18 Trained king to take part in plot (4)
 - 21 Having greater influence before mere English sailor (14)
- DOWN
- 2 Leading lady of the cinema? (9)
 - 24 Sickly, like food generally? (5)
 - 26 Mocks backward children, going about free (7)
 - 26 Patient, in death, is covered (7)
 - 1 One prize put up is a hat (4)
 - 2 Nude at home — the singer has to fetch her (2, 3, 10)
 - 3 Poppy writing about companion causing a split (10)
 - 4 Accusation isn't to follow looking up record (6)
 - 5 Fine food's obtainable in a bar, so I'm off (8)
 - 6 Signs left on disturbed nest (8)
 - 7 Bard's play about revenge, and suits in court are involved (5, 10)
 - 8 Girl causes agitation, appearing topless — vulgar (10)
 - 12 Henry, noisy on a beat, shows weight (4, 1, 5)
 - 15 Awfully dour mare, heavily protected (8)
 - 16 Anticipates having revolutionary among heads (8)
 - 18 A light blow given in a quarrel (6)
 - 19 Rod mostly seen around at stable (6)
 - 22 Watched river rising, swamping end of jetty (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,225

ACROSS

- 1 DRINK
- 5 LOST
- 9 CRAVE
- 10 TAMARIND
- 11 DRUNKARDS
- 13 ENID
- 14 SHIP
- 17 QUESTIONS
- 18 KING
- 21 INFLUENCE

DOWN

- 2 LEAD
- 24 SICKLY
- 26 MOCKS
- 26 COVERED
- 1 HAT
- 2 NUDE
- 3 POPPY
- 4 ACCUSATION
- 5 BAR
- 6 SIGNS
- 7 BARD
- 8 GIRL
- 12 HENRY
- 15 MARE
- 16 ANTICIPATES
- 18 LIGHT
- 19 ROD
- 22 WATCHED

Miles faces chess defeat

British grandmaster Tony Miles is in danger of a surprise elimination from the new world chess series after a poor start at the Carthage International in Tunisia. Miles drew his first three games, then lost with the white pieces to Alonso Zapata, of Colombia.

Hospital to reopen

Mildmay Mission Hospital in Shoreditch, east London, is to reopen after its closure two years ago in health service economy cuts.

'Nationalisation' plan for business rates

Continued from page one

position more than a month ago when the poll tax proposal was first put to ministers meeting at Chequers by Mr William Waldegrave, the environment minister.

He repeated this view this week during a personal confrontation with Mr Jenkin, adding some figures to prove that the cost of collecting a poll tax would probably be vastly greater than the cost of collecting the rates.

In a cost-conscious government, this could be a persuasive argument.

Radio Arabia pirate fined

An Egyptian who set up Radio Arabia, a pirate radio station to serve London's Muslim community, was fined £800 with 57s costs, at Marylebone Court yesterday.

Driving ban for fire chief

Derbyshire's suspended fire chief, Mr Trevor Stevin, aged 43, was fined £180 and banned from driving for 14 months yesterday for driving with excess alcohol in his blood.

THE WEATHER

Sun and showers

A WEAK trough of low pressure will become slow moving over southern Britain with a northerly airflow persisting.

London: Partly cloudy with sun and showers. Wind: variable, 10 to 15 mph. Max 12 to 14°C (54 to 57°F).

Manchester: Partly cloudy with sun and showers. Wind: variable, 10 to 15 mph. Max 12 to 14°C (54 to 57°F).

Edinburgh: Partly cloudy with sun and showers. Wind: variable, 10 to 15 mph. Max 12 to 14°C (54 to 57°F).

Belfast: Partly cloudy with sun and showers. Wind: variable, 10 to 15 mph. Max 12 to 14°C (54 to 57°F).

Cardiff: Partly cloudy with sun and showers. Wind: variable, 10 to 15 mph. Max 12 to 14°C (54 to 57°F).

AROUND THE WORLD

REPORTS

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Manchester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Edinburgh	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Belfast	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Cardiff	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Exeter	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Gloucester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Leeds	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Liverpool	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
London	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Manchester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Edinburgh	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Belfast	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Cardiff	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Exeter	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Gloucester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Leeds	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Liverpool	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm

AROUND BRITAIN

REPORTS

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Manchester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Edinburgh	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Belfast	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Cardiff	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Exeter	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Gloucester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Leeds	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Liverpool	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
London	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Manchester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Edinburgh	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Belfast	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Cardiff	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Exeter	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Gloucester	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Leeds	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm
Liverpool	12	10-15	Partly cloudy	Calm

MANCHESTER READINGS

REPORTS

London	6.2	10.3	15.9	20.9	Sunny	pm
Manchester	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
Wolverhampton	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
Cardiff	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
Edinburgh	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
Exeter	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
London	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
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Edinburgh	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
Exeter	5.9	10.0	15.6	20.6	Sunny	pm
London	5.9	10.0				